

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSIDENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 487.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1855.

[PRICE 6d.]

PATRON, H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION

DURING LENT, on Wednesday and Friday Evenings, at Eight.

LECTURES on ASTRONOMY, by Dr. BACHOFFNER, illustrated by a SPLENDID DISSOLVING ORRERY, commencing on Wednesday evening, the 21st inst., with APPROPRIATE MUSIC from HAYDN'S ORATORIO OF THE CREATION, by a BAND and CHORUS of FIFTY PERFORMERS, under the direction of Mr. W. W. WAUD, of the Royal Italian Opera. Thursday Evening, the 1st of March, DRAMATIC READING by Miss GLYN—KING JOHN.

The STEAM GUN, DISSOLVING VIEWS OF THE WAR, DIORAMA OF SINBAD THE SAILOR, CORMORANTS, the Concert by INVISIBLE PERFORMERS, and all the LECTURES, on the NEW BANK NOTE, as usual.

ORATIONS will be delivered by JOHN B. GOUGH in EXETER HALL, as follows:—March 12th, 13th, 15th, 19th, 22nd, 26th, 29th. Doors open each evening at Seven chair taken at Eight o'clock.

THE Rev. Professor MAURICE, M.A.

of the Working Men's College, will deliver a Lecture at the TAILORS' AGENCY LITERARY INSTITUTE, Newington Causeway, on "Newspaper Literature: its Use and Abuse," on TUESDAY EVENING NEXT, the 6th MARCH. The chair will be taken a quarter past Eight o'clock, by W. A. WILKINSON, Esq., M.P.

Tickets, gratis, at Dunn's Tailors' Labour Agency, Newington Causeway.

ART-UNION OF LONDON (by Royal

Charter.)—Prizeholders select for themselves from the public Exhibition. Every Subscriber of One Guinea will have, besides the chance of a prize, an impression of a plate of "A WATER PARTY," by J. T. WILLMOSE, A.R.A., after J. J. Chalon, R.A., together with a quarto volume of thirty illustrations of Byron's "Childe Harold." The prints are now ready for delivery, and the volume may be seen at the office.

GEORGE GODWIN, } Honorary
LEWIS POOCK, } Secretaries.
444, West Strand, 15th February, 1855.

WANTED, a Young Lady, competent to undertake the superintendence of the MILLINERY and MANTLE DEPARTMENT in a general drapery establishment.—Apply to G. HEATHER SMITH, Worthing.

BED ROOM FURNISHED.—Any

Young Man from home may here find quiet LODGING in a healthy and convenient situation. References given and required. Address, Mr. CLARKE, 6, Sidmouth-street, Gray's-Inn-road.

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MERCHANTS.—A respectable Young Man is desirous of a situation as ASSISTANT to the above.—Apply, A. Y., Mr. Biddell's, Woburn.

IRONMONGERS' ASSISTANT

WANTED. He must be an efficient hand, capable of conducting a country business, and a man of decided piety.—Apply to J. HAYCRAFT, Deptford.

NEWSPAPERS.—The Times posted on

the evening of publication at 2s. per quarter. Second edition at 3s. The Times posted day after publication at 16s. per quarter. The Globe, Sun, and Standard, by evening mail, at 3s. The Express at 19s. 6d. The Nonconformist, Illustrated News, and other Sixpenny Weekly Papers, at 6s. 6d. per quarter. Threepenny Weekly Papers at 3s. 3d. Stamped PUNCH at 4s. 4d. Saunders, Brothers, News Agents, 166, London-wall, London. Terms, Cash.

J TURNER & SON, CABINET, CHAIR,

and SOFA MANUFACTURERS, UPHOLSTERS, and GENERAL FURNISHERS, 43, Great James-street, Bedford-row; Manufactory, St. John's-road, Hoxton, London.

The Cottage or Mansion completely furnished in the most modern and elegant style, at manufacturers' prices. Design and Price Books gratis on application.

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SECURITY. LEASES, LIFE POLICIES, &c.—Sums from £5 to £200 advanced two or three days after application, for Two Years, One Year, or Six Months, re-payable any day in the week, by weekly, monthly, or quarterly instalments; and Good Bills Discounted. Charges moderate, and strict confidence observed.

LONDON and PROVINCIAL LOAN and DISCOUNT COMPANY. Private Office, 69, Goswell-road, London.—Open daily from 9 till 5, thus avoiding inconvenience or publicity.—Forms of Application and Prospectus Gratis, on receipt of Stamped Envelope.

H. FLEAR, Manager.

PIANOFORTES WHOLESALE.—Buy

your Pianofortes of the Manufacturers, at the Wholesale Trade Price quotations. An excellent Pianoforte, 23 Guineas, others at 24, 26, 28, 30, and upwards. Each instrument is warranted perfect, and packed for the country, free of expense.

RALPH SMITH and Co., Manufacturers to the trade, 171, Bishopsgate-street, London.

"We have seen from purchasers and competent judges the most satisfactory testimonials to the fulness of power, richness of tone and other excellences of the instruments furnished by Messrs R. Smith and Co."—Watchman, Jan. 5, 1855.

BISHOPSGATE CHAPEL (nearly oppo-

site Sun-street), having been closed for repairs and alterations, will be RE-OPENED on WEDNESDAY NEXT, MARCH 7th, 1855, for the use of the United Churches at Bishopsgate and Holywell Mount, under the pastoral care of the Rev. E. MANNERING, when TWO SERMONS will be preached, that in the morning by the Rev. T. BINNEY of the Weigh House, and that in the evening by the Rev. NEWMAN HALL, B.A., of Surrey Chapel.

N.B. The morning service at 12; the evening at 7 o'clock precisely.

A cold Collation will be served in the School-room at Half-past Two. Tickets for which, Four Shillings each (including Tea and Coffee at Five o'clock), may be obtained of Mr. Donelson, 21, Liverpool-street; Mr. Green, 2, Bishopsgate Without; Mr. Henry Cox, 27 and 28, Whitmore-place East, Hoxton; Mr. Farrington, 3, Bath-street, Newgate-street; Mr. J. S. Mitchell, 60, Shoreditch; and Mr. G. A. Nodes, 10, Whitfield-street, Tabernacle-walk.

On the following SUNDAY, MARCH 11th, the Rev. A. TIDMAN, D.D., will preach in the morning, and the Rev. JAMES HAMILTON, D.D., of Regent-square, in the evening.

N.B. The morning service to commence at a Quarter before Eleven, and the evening at Half-past Six o'clock precisely. Collections will be made for the expenses incurred.

ISLINGTON CHAPEL.—HOLLIS v.

TAYLOR.—Mr. A. F. TAYLOR having made a PUBLIC APOLOGY in open Court to the Rev. B. S. HOLLIS, and promised to abstain from all further molestation, this action has been withdrawn. A report of the proceedings will be presented at the usual QUARTERLY SOCIAL MEETING to be held in the Large Room of Islington Chapel, on THURSDAY, MARCH 1st, for receiving Subscriptions towards the Building Fund.

TEA at HALF-PAST FIVE. Tickets 1s. 6d. each, to be had of the Chapel-keeper, No. 1, Church-street, not later than to-day.

CONGREGATIONAL PASTOR'S

INSURANCE AID SOCIETY.—The first ANNUAL MEETING of the above Society, will be held at the CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY, on TUESDAY, MARCH 6th. The chair to be taken by the treasurer, EDWARD SWAINE, Esq., at quarter-past one o'clock, for half-past precisely.

HENRY BROMLEY, Secretary.

DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK.—The

Independent Church and Congregation of this place having been for several years in an unsettled state, not having had a permanent minister since the decease of the Rev. T. James, Mr. C. TALBOT, of Diss, Norfolk, having supplied their pulpit for the last four months, with acceptance, a meeting of the Church and Congregation was held on the past sabbath, February 25th, when he was unanimously invited to take the pastoral oversight of the Church and Congregation which he unhesitatingly accepted. Mr. Talbot enters upon his charge immediately, with very cheering prospects of success.

PUBLIC CEMETERY CONVEYANCE.

—Well-appointed Horses leave daily for the different New Cemeteries of the Metropolis—Charge for conveyance of Adults, 10s.; Children, 7s. Mourning Coaches follow (when required), charge for each mourner 5s. there and back. Orders received by ANTILL and Co., 65, Judd-street, St. Pancras; 6, Crawford-street, Marylebone; and 150, Blackfriars-road, Surrey. Adults First-class Carriage Funeral, and Grave in a Cemetery at Tooting, Finchley, or Hanwell, including every expense, £10; Second ditto, £6; Third-class, £3 10s.; Children's ditto, £1 10s. See Prospectus.

TOWN TALLOW-MADE CANDLES.

GOOD MOTTLED AND YELLOW SOAP.
OIL OF ALL KINDS.

Chaplin and Lambert, 89 and 90, Leather-lane, Holborn.

BEST COALS ONLY.—COCKERELL

and CO., COAL MERCHANTS to Her MAJESTY.—Cash price to-day, 32s. per ton for screened unmixt Best Coals (officially certified), to which quality their trade has been exclusively confined for the last twenty years.—Purfleet Wharf, Earl-street, Blackfriars, and Eaton Wharf, Belgrave-place, Piccadilly.

COALS.—Eastern Counties Railway.—

The following are this day's prices of COALS brought to London by this railway:—From the county of Durham—Stewarts Wall's-end 29s. per ton. Whitwell or Old Etherley, Wall's-end, 27s. per ton. From the Yorkshire and Derbyshire coal fields, best quality—Silkstone double screened, 24s. per ton; Rothwell Haigh, Clay Cross, Tapton, screened, 22s. 6d. per ton; 2nd quality, screened, 23s. 6d. per ton; hard steam coals, 22s. Baker's Hartley's, 21s. per ton. These coals will be delivered at the above prices two miles from the Mile-end or Bishopsgate Stations. Beyond two and under five miles 1s. per ton extra. Beyond 5 miles 1s. per ton per mile extra. Orders may be addressed to Mr. ALFRED S. PRIOR, Mile-end or Bishopsgate Stations. Cash to be paid on or before delivery.

By order, J. B. OWEN, Secretary.
Bishopsgate Station, January, 1855.

ENGINEERING, WATLING WORKS,

STONY STRATFORD.

A valuable opportunity is offered in the above establishment for young men to acquire a thorough practical knowledge of Mechanical Engineering.

The works are expressly designed for the reception of pupils, whose training is made the special aim of the masters. The studies of the college and the drawing office are added to the usual practice of the workshop, and the pupils are constantly under the immediate superintendence of the principals.

Parents wishing to place their sons intended for Engineers under the advantages of an intellectual and religious training, are respectfully invited to communicate with the principals, Messrs. RICKETT and HAYES, when prospectuses of their plans will be forwarded.

ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG

LADIES, by Mrs. S. W. KILPIN and Miss FULLER. Testimonials, references, and terms upon Application.

MR. BUTLER, of Childerditch Hall,

Brentwood, Essex, wishes to receive into his Family TWO LITTLE BOYS, between the ages of Six and Eleven, to be instructed by a qualified governess with his own children, in the usual branches of a sound English education, with Latin, French, and Drawing.

Terms—Twenty-six Guineas per annum.

HYDE PARK SCHOOL, HEADINGLEY,

LEEDS.—The course of instruction includes the Latin, Greek, French, and German languages; Chemistry, Drawing, and Drilling, together with the usual branches of a good English education.

Quarters commence January 30th, April 10th, July 31st, and October 9th, 1855.

Terms may be had on application to the Rev. R. Brewer.

PORTLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

PLYMOUTH, conducted by Mr. R. F. WEYMOUTH, M.A. (of University College, London), M.R.A.S., &c. &c., assisted by well qualified and experienced Masters.

The Course of Studies pursued at this Establishment is suitable as preparatory either for a College Course or for Professional or Commercial Life.

The house is very healthily situated in the highest part of the town, and close to the northern outskirts, but at a convenient distance for sea-bathing.

Terms, from 25 to 45 guineas per annum.

HOMERTON COLLEGE, the Training

Institution of the Congregational Board of Education.

The next Session commences April 1st, 1855, when there will be Vacancies for Male and Female Students. Applications for admission into the College, and for Teachers, to be addressed to the Principals, the Rev. W. J. UNWIN, M.A., The College, Homerton, near London. As applications from Schools have frequently to be declined from want of suitable Teachers, a Register is kept of Teachers holding the principles of the Board who are in want of Situations.

WILLIAM RUTT, Hon. Sec.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIA-

TION.—THE DISTINCTIVE FEATURES of this Association are—That all Education should be religious but, at the same time, so FREE FROM SECTARIAN INFLUENCE, as to command the sympathy and co-operation of ALL DENOMINATIONS OF EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS; and that the STATE being incompetent to give such an Education to the people, should not interfere in the matter, but leave it entirely to VOLUNTARY EFFORT.

Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, G. W. ALEXANDER, Esq., 40, Lombard-street; or at the office of the Association, Walworth-place, Walworth London.

HENRY RICHARD, } Hon. Secs.
JOSEPH BARRETT, }

7, Walworth-place, Walworth.

PROFITABLE AGENCY.—Agents

wanted for the sale of BAKER and COMPANY'S long celebrated PACKET TEAS AND COFFEES. For terms, &c., apply to BAKER and Co., 4, Little Tower-street, London.

NO CHARGE FOR WATERPROOF-

ING.—BERDOE'S VENTILATING WATERPROOF LIGHT OVERCOATS, CAPES, &c., for all seasons. These well-known, respectable, and economical garments, resist any amount of rain, without confining perspiration (the fatal objection to all other waterproofs), are intended not merely for RAINY weather, but GENERAL use at all times. Capes, 30s. to 40s.; Coats, 40s. to 50s.—W. BERDOE, 90, New Bond-street, and 69, Cornhill (only.)

IMPORTANT to EMIGRANTS and the

PUBLIC GENERALLY. PLUMBE'S SOUTH SEA ARROW-ROOT.—The genuine and superior qualities of this article have long established it in public estimation. It is greatly preferred by the most eminent Physicians in London for Invalids, and as the best food for infants. It also forms a light nutritious diet for general use, and is most valuable in all cases of Diarrhoea. It is strongly recommended for Cholera; acting as a preventive it should be used freely during the Epidemic.

Directions accompanying each packet, which bears the signature of A. S. PLUMBE, 3, ALIE-PLACE, GREAT ALIE-STREET, WHITECHAPEL. Agents appointed in all parts of Town and Country. Retail in London by Snow, Paternoster-row; Ford, Islington; Morgan, Sloane-street; Williams, Moor-gate-street; Medes, Camberwell; Poulton, Hackney; and others.

NO CHARGE FOR

STAMPING.—A Single Packet of Note Paper, or 100 Envelopes, Stamped with Arms, Crest, or Initials, Free of Charge, and every description of Stationery full 30 per cent. cheaper than any other house, at PARKINS and GOTTO'S, Paper and Envelope Makers, 25, Oxford-street. Useful Cream-laid Note Paper, full size, 5 quires for 6d.; Superior Thick ditto, 5 quires for 1s.; India Note, 5 quires for 1s.; Letter Paper, 4s. per ream; Sermon Paper, 4s. 6d.; Foolscap, 6s. 6d.; Good Cream-laid Cemented Envelopes, 4d. per 100; the Queen's Head Envelopes, 1s. per dozen; Office Envelopes, 6s. per 1,000; BLACK BORDERED CREAM-LAID NOTE PAPER (full size), five quires for 1s.; Bordered Envelopes, 9d. per 100; Best Wax, 3s. 6d. per pound; 100 Super. Visiting-Cards Printed for 1s. 6d. P. and G.'s New Elastic Post-office Pen, 6d. per dozen, is warranted not to scratch the paper; Useful Sample Packets of Paper and Envelopes, by Post, 1s. each; Book of Prices, Post Free.—PARKINS and GOTTO, 25, Oxford-street.

ORIGINAL

LOANS, AT £5 PER CENT. PER ANNUM,
FROM £20 TO £1,000.
**NEW NATIONAL LIFE, FIRE, AND
LOAN COMPANY.**
484, Oxford-street, Bloomsbury, London.
THOMAS BOURNE, Resident and Managing Secretary.

**NATIONAL GUARDIAN ASSURANCE
SOCIETY.**
CHIEF OFFICE—19, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON.
Branch offices at Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, New-
castle-upon-Tyne, Hamburg and Portsea.
Every description of Assurance effected upon equitable terms.
Eight-tenths of the profits divided amongst the insured.
Prospectuses to be had on application.
JESSE HOBSON, Secretary.

**FREE TRADE FREEHOLD LAND
SOCIETY.**
OFFICES.—86, ST. JAMES-STREET, PALL-MALL.
NOTICE is hereby given, that the Annual Meeting of the FREE
TRADE BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY will be held at
FREEMASONS' HALL, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields,
in the County of Middlesex, on TUESDAY, the 6th day of
MARCH next, at SEVEN o'clock in the EVENING precisely,
for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report, to elect members
of the Executive Committee and Auditors, and for such other
business as may be transacted at annual meetings.
Feb. 24th, 1855. THOS. SHERWOOD SMITH, Secretary.
N.B.—On and after March 28th the Office of the Society will be
Removed to No. 17, Adam-street, Adelphi.

**NOTICE OF DIVIDEND.—BANK OF
DEPOSIT, NATIONAL ASSURANCE AND INVEST-
MENT ASSOCIATION, No. 3, Pall Mall East, London. Estab-
lished A.D. 1844. Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.**
The Warrants for the Half-yearly Interest, at the rate of 5 per
cent. per annum, on Deposit Accounts, to 31st December, are
ready for delivery, and payable daily.
Parties desirous of Investing Money are requested to examine
the plan of the BANK OF DEPOSIT. Prospectuses and Forms for
Opening Accounts sent free on application.

ACHILLES INSURANCE COMPANY,
25, CANNON-STREET, LONDON.
19, PRINCESS-STREET, MANCHESTER.
CAPITAL: £100,000, in 10,000 Shares of £10 each.
With power to increase to One Million.
EDWARD MIALI, Esq., M.P., Chairman.
COL. LOTHIAN S. DICKSON, Deputy Chairman.
The advantages offered by this Company will be seen on an
Investigation of its Rates of Premium, which are based upon the
latest and most approved corrected Tables of Mortality, and the
terms of its Loan business. It offers to the Assured the security
of a large subscribed Capital, combined with all the advantages
of a Mutual Assurance Office—Eighty per Cent. of the Profits being
divided amongst the Policy-holders every five years.
POLICIES ARE INDISPENSABLE.
No CHARGE is made for POLICY STAMPS OR MEDICAL FEES.
ONE THIRD of the Premiums on Assurances of £500 is allowed
to remain unpaid, and continue as a claim on the Policy.
POLICIES NOT FORFEITED if the Premiums are not paid when
due.
LOANS are granted to Policy-holders on liberal terms. A
Policy of the amount only of the sum borrowed, being as collateral
security, required.
For the convenience of the WORKING CLASSES Policies are
issued as low as £20, at the same Rates as larger Assurances.
Premiums may be paid Quarterly, Half-yearly, or Annually.
Any other Particulars, or Rates of Premium required for any
contingency, can be obtained of the Agents of the Company, or at
the Chief Office, 25, Cannon-street, or of the Secretary.
HUGH BROWN TAPLIN, Secretary.

**BANK FOR LARGE OR SMALL INVESTMENTS.
PERPETUAL INVESTMENT, LAND,
and BUILDING SOCIETY.**
22, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, BLACKFRIARS, LONDON.

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59, Lombard-street.
SOLICITORS.
Messrs. WATSON and SONS, Bonville-street, Fleet-street.
SURVEYORS.
Messrs. W. and C. PUGH, Blackman-street, Borough.
PROGRESS OF THE SOCIETY.
Shares Issued.....8,329
Advanced in Mortgage.....£87,726 5s.

This Society offers a secure and safe mode for the investment of
large or small sums of money, the security for which is unques-
tionable, the funds being all advanced upon Freehold, Copyhold,
or Leasehold Property.
SHARES.—A £10 Share may be paid by instalments in the same
manner as deposits in Savings-banks; a £25 Share, by the pay-
ment of 5s. per month for 7½ years; a £30 by the payment of 4s.
per month for 10 years; a £50 by the payment of 5s. per month
for 12½ years, or of 10s. per month for 7½ years; a £100, by the pay-
ment of 10s. per month for 12½ years, or of 20s. per month for 7½
years.
Shares subscribed in full will bear a fixed interest at 5½ per
cent. per annum, payable half-yearly.
Five per cent. compound interest allowed upon the withdrawal
of subscriptions, which can be done at a short notice.
Money lent to Shareholders upon the security of their Shares.
Deposits received daily, and interest from 4 to 5 per cent. per
annum allowed. Only a short notice (usually a week) required
for the withdrawal of Deposits.
This Society is adapted for the securing of Annuities, Endow-
ments, and Apprenticeship Fees, particulars of which can be
ascertained upon application.
In this Society there is no Personal Liability, and the whole of
the Profits belong to the Shareholders.
Ministers and Teachers desirous of promoting provident habits
should form "Penny Banks" in connexion with their Congrega-
tions and Schools, and invest the money with this Society, which
can be done at 5 per cent. interest.
Money Advanced for the Erection of Houses, Chapels, and
Schoolrooms.
Shares may be taken, Prospectuses had, and information ob-
tained, at the Offices of the Society, between the hours of Nine
and Five, and on Wednesdays from Nine to Eight, or a Prospectus
will be sent upon receipt of one postage stamp.
A fair remuneration allowed to persons acting as Agents of the
Society.
JOHN EDWARD TRESIDDER, Secretary,

**BANK of DEPOSIT, NATIONAL
ASSURANCE and INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION, No.
3, Pall-Mall East, London. Established A.D. 1844. Empowered
by Special Act of Parliament.**
Parties desirous of Investing Money, are requested to examine
the Plan of this Institution, by which a high rate of interest may
be obtained with perfect security.
The interest is payable in January and July at the Head Office
in London; and may also be received at the various Branches, or
through Country Bankers, without delay or expense.
PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.
Prospectuses and Forms for opening Accounts sent free on
application.

ACTUARIAL OPINION.
Shares, £20. Entrance, 1s. Subscription, 5s.
INDEPENDENT BUILDING SOCIETY.
—The opinion of an eminent actuary having been obtained,
certifying that the Society will terminate within 10 years, same
may be had of the Secretary. The vast success already obtained
renders it necessary shortly to close the Society.
J. J. HOLCOMBE, Secretary.
3, Oldham-place, Bagnigge Wells-road.

**RAISING THE ENTRANCE FEE.
INDEPENDENT BUILDING SOCIETY.**
No. 3.—Shares, £20. Entrance, 1s. Subscription, 5s.
In consequence of the astonishing progress made by this Society
during the first six weeks of its existence, the Entrance Fee will
be increased the day after the next meeting, which will be the last
opportunity afforded to take shares in the Society at the present
low entrance fee.
The Independent and West London Building Societies, so well
known and supported, have advanced an enormous amount
of money upon all descriptions of freehold and leasehold
property. This Society, established under the same management,
has no Ballot rule, allows 6 per cent. upon the loan deposits,
repayable at one month's notice; is fixed at 10 years' duration; offers
great facilities in the redemption of mortgages, and prompt and
liberal advances. All shares taken can be withdrawn at any time
with six per cent. interest.
The third £1,000 will be offered to competition at the THIRD
SUBSCRIPTION MEETING, which will be held on TUESDAY,
MARCH 13, 1855, at Seven o'clock, at WARDGOUR CHAPEL
SCHOOL, WARDGOUR-STREET, SOHO.
Prospectuses and Shares issued daily by the Secretary, Mr.
HOLCOMBE, 3, Oldham-place, Bagnigge Wells-road, near Ex-
mouth-street.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
To SECURE THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS YEAR'S ENTRY, PROPOSALS
MUST BE LODGED AT THE HEAD-OFFICE, OR AT ANY OF THE
SOCIETY'S AGENCIES, ON OR BEFORE 1st MARCH.
INSTITUTED 1831.

**SCOTTISH EQUITABLE MUTUAL
LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.**
(Incorporated by Royal Charter, and Special Act of Parliament.)
Head Office—EDINBURGH—26, ST. ANDREW-SQUARE.
LONDON—125, Bishopsgate-street, Cornhill.
The SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
is an Institution peculiarly adapted to afford Provision for
Families. It was established in the year 1831, upon the principle
of MUTUAL CONTRIBUTION, the Surplus or Profit being
wholly divisible among the Members; and the Additions which
have been made to Policies at the Periodical Investigations of the
Society afford satisfactory evidence of the prosperity of the
Institution, and the great advantages derived by its Members.
The following Examples exhibit the Additions already made:—
A Policy for £1,000, opened in 1832, is now increased to
£1,523 8s.
A Policy for £1,000, opened in 1835, is now increased to
£1,491 16s. 10d.
A Policy for £1,000 opened in 1840 is now increased to
£1,310 12s. 7d.
The Profits are ascertained and divided triennially among
Policies of more than five years' duration.
The Annual Revenue is upwards of £150,000.
The Amount of Assurances in force is upwards of Four
Millions and a Quarter Sterling.
The amount paid to the Representatives of Deceased Members
exceeds £200,000 sterling.
The Total amount of Vested Additions allocated to Policies
exceeds £200,000.
The Accumulated Fund is upwards of £430,000.
Loans granted to Members to the extent of the office value of
their Policies.
Copies of the Annual Report, Forms of Proposal, and all
information may be had on application at any of the Society's
Offices in town or country.
ROBERT CHRISTIE, Manager.
WILLIAM FINLAY, Secretary.
W. COOK, Agent.
125, Bishopsgate-street, London.

LIST OF LOCAL AGENTS.
BARNES—Whitbread, Edward, Stationer.
BATTERSEA—Buckmaster, J. C., New-road, St. John's-hill.
BRIXTON—Price, J. M., Chemist, 3, Loughborough-place.
CLAPHAM—Balls, Charles, Scientific and Literary Institution.
COMMERCIAL-ROAD EAST—Newton, J., G. Grosvenor-street.
DE BEAUVOIR TOWN—Pettifer, E. H., Chemist, 6, Southgate-
road.
HACKNEY—Steth, Richard, Jun., 2, Denmark-place.
ISLINGTON—Fines, Robert, Common Agent, 36, Gibson-square.
KENTISH-TOWN—Garton, Henry, Chemist, 2, Commercial-
place.
LAMBETH—Roffey, Thomas, Solicitor, 50, Walcot-place East.
MILE-END—Sharp, George, 3, Ireland-row.
PIMLICO—Carrack, James, Chemist, 46, Chertou-street.
PUTNEY—Stewart, John, High-street.
STRATFORD—McCash, William, Baker.
SYDENHAM—Daws, Thomas, House Agent.
WALWORTH—Turner, W., St. John, House Agent.
WANDSWORTH—Brooks, Charles, Chemist.
WHITECHAPEL ROAD—Nicholson, James, 7, Mount-place.

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* See the Times, February 19th.**

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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 487.]

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

GATHERING UP THE FRAGMENTS.

THE readers of the *Nonconformist* will not have failed to notice the frequency with which its columns of ecclesiastical intelligence display the self-expository heading, "Our Church-rate Record." Under that title we have been accustomed, for some time past, to range the facts of the week, so far as they relate to the question indicated. We need not say we should be but too glad to be justified in dropping the subject for ever. Parish contests, more especially when keenly conducted, are never very edifying. Seldom, indeed, do they call into exercise any of the loftier attributes of our nature—and when, as in the case of Church-rates, they involve religious interests, they too commonly associate that influence which is divinely appointed to soothe and purify our spirits, with thoughts of evil and deeds of strife. A single Church-rate struggle, hotly contested, usually generates a greater volume of social bitterness than good sense and neighbourly dispositions can dissipate in a whole twelvemonth. Nothing so irritates and inflames sectarian intolerance. Nothing disintegrates so effectually—particularly in rural parishes—the various component elements of social life. And, by a singular fatality, it happens that, just as Spring begins to put forth its genial influences, and the minds of men, harmonising with external Nature, recommence the blossoming season of kindly affections, Easter brings round the demands of Church and churchwardens, as if to blight and shrivel up every young shoot of charity and peace.

We have said, and said unfeignedly, that we shall be glad to drop all mention of so unpleasant a subject—for, besides its monotony, it always jars upon our best feelings. But this it is impossible to do whilst the law of ecclesiastical inequality and injustice remains. On the contrary, like men whose country is invaded, but whose instincts yearn for tranquil enjoyments, we are bound by higher considerations than those which spring out of personal tastes and preferences, to enter with energy upon a struggle we would fain have avoided. We can only conquer the peace which we earnestly desire, by giving ourselves, for the time being, body and soul, to the war. Our way to the region of rest, unfortunately, lies across an intermediate district of fierce discord—and the more energetically we push on, sword in hand, through debateable ground, the sooner shall we realize our right and our reward. Hence, we are compelled to remind our readers, that Easter week is fast approaching, and to exhort them, wherever practicable, to exercise their privilege as parishioners in behalf of religious liberty. This year, at least, Parliament will feel every pulsation of opinion that throbs in the vestry—and every well-fought contest out of doors will materially aid in determining the more important contest in the House of Commons.

To nerve our friends for what we hope and believe will prove a final and victorious struggle, we propose, from time to time, as occasion may require and serve, to "gather up fragments" of encouragement, and minister them to such as have need. It happens that we are enabled to do this with unwonted effect this week. An "Occasional Paper"

just issued by the Religious Liberation Society—a speech delivered by Lord Stanley to his constituents at King's Lynn—and a proposal to acknowledge, by some suitable testimonial, the service of Mr. Samuel Courtauld in conducting the Braintree Church-rate case to its triumphant close—present us with materials for stimulating hope, and sustaining exertion, in the minds of our readers, such as we can expect to come but rarely within reach.

The "Occasional Paper, No. 2," of the Liberation Society, comprises an accurate and very interesting outline of proceedings in Parliament last session on ecclesiastical matters, to which is appended a complete table of nine of the most important divisions in the House of Commons in relation thereto. Although the facts are not by any means new to us, when put together as they have been in this paper, they constitute a body of evidence indicative of progress, which has produced agreeable surprise even in our minds. Certainly, it supplies, in our opinion, more than sufficient warrant of the successful activity of the Society; and, when candidly weighed, can hardly fail, we think, of securing a much wider range of co-operation in future. It is quite clear that passing events and past efforts are beginning to tell upon the representative branch of the Legislature with sensible effect—and if constituencies can be prevailed upon, as we trust they may, to scrutinize the accompanying division lists, and judiciously to act upon the knowledge to be gleaned from them, it will be their own fault if a large accession be not made, at the next general election, to the ranks of the ecclesiastical liberals. The publication shows what may be done by zeal, perseverance, and tact, and the perusal of it has served to confirm our expectation, that the total abolition of the Church-rate system may be carried during the present session.

If, indeed, Lord Stanley, the noble member for King's Lynn, could justly be assumed to represent the average intelligence, candour, and public spirit, of the Parliamentary party which he adorns, the future of this, and of many other great questions, might be confidently predicted. But it would be far from wise to lay this flattering unction to our souls. Lord Stanley is essentially superior, not only to his own party, but to political party, as such. To hereditary abilities of a high order, the noble lord brings the advantage of a wide observation of men and things, a habit of patient investigation, a comprehensive and honest judgment, and a moral courage which no difficulties can daunt. The noble lord, we were aware, spoke and voted last session in favour of Sir W. Clay's bill for the immediate and total abolition of Church-rates—but we were hardly prepared to regard that vote as representing such far-seeing liberality as that to which he has recently given utterance. In a speech delivered to his constituents about a fortnight back, Lord Stanley spoke in the following terms:—

I take first the question of Church-rates. I have voted for the abolition of Church-rates, and shall do so again. (Hear, hear, and applause.) When the matter was first brought forward for discussion in the session of 1853, I thought, and many others thought, that a compromise would be possible, which, while equally relieving Nonconformists from the unjust burden to which they are subjected, would serve to mitigate in no small degree the opposition and the dislike to any change which were felt by the great body of Churchmen. That plan was proposed by another member of Parliament; I supported it in writing, and I voted for it in the division; it was fully and fairly discussed; and the result of the discussion which then took place upon my mind was to convince me that, fair and equitable as that compromise might be in point of principle, it was encumbered and embarrassed with so many practical difficulties in the working, as to make it difficult for it to be carried through the House of Commons, and to make it quite impossible for it to be successfully carried out. Well, then, I had only to choose between maintaining the law in its actual state or voting for its total repeal. I thought it was a question not merely of policy, not merely of expediency, but of justice and right; and I therefore could have no hesitation as to the course I should take. (Applause.) I am quite aware that in some districts, especially in the rural districts, inconvenience would be caused for a time by the withdrawal from parishes and congregations of that compulsory legal support to which they are at present entitled. I do not overlook that objection, and I do not underrate its importance; but I think the inconvenience in question would be only temporary; I think it would be more than counter-balanced by the termination of that strife and

dissension which we have so long witnessed in connexion with this question; and I think that the change is doubly important, not only on account of the intrinsic merits of the cause, but because it will afford us the first trial, the first practical experiment of that principle of self-support in religious matters which, whether we like it or no, whether we approve it or no, whether we think it the best possible system or no, seems likely, perhaps certain, in the inevitable progress of public events, to be the principle of the next generation. (Hear, hear and applause.) I trust, therefore, that we shall succeed in this matter; I trust that something will be done; but if we fail, and if nothing is done, I shall still confide, in this case as in many others, in the good sense of the community at large to remedy and to neutralise the effects of injurious legislation.

Of course, we make no foolish claim to regard the noble lord as coinciding with ourselves in opinion on ecclesiastical matters. But we frankly declare, that the thoughtfulness, the love of truth, and the sincerity of purpose, which gleam from end to end through the above quotation, attract our confidence, and excite our hope, far more than would any verbal pledge of agreement. To men thus able, unprejudiced, and discriminating, whatever their present professions, we should be willing to entrust the question of Church Establishments. Events will teach them quite as fast as their knowledge can be made available for legislation—and nothing can be more cheering to those who have borne the heat and burden of the day, than to witness a development of rising statesmanship which promises both the power and the will to deal with the greatest question of the age, whenever public opinion shall demand its settlement.

It is quite in accordance with the purpose of this article, that we should urge grateful acknowledgments of past service, as well as trusting anticipation of service to come. Every one knows the influence which the Braintree Church-rate contest has exercised in bringing the question into its present state of ripeness. But all may not be aware, that the success of that protracted suit of eighteen years' duration, was chiefly due to the courageous, indefatigable, and skilful management of Samuel Courtauld, Esq. Now that the labours of the Braintree Anti-church-rate Committee have been brought to a close, their accounts balanced, and their costs paid, their desire to present to their Chairman a testimonial of public gratitude, such as he may hand down to his descendants with laudable pride, is not only natural, but, we may say, inevitable. Some heirloom, in the shape of a piece of plate, presented to Mr. Courtauld at a public festival, will be but a trifling acknowledgment of the obligation under which that gentleman has laid the entire community. We rejoice, therefore, to learn, from a circular before us, that some such expression of public gratitude has been determined on—and that a Provisional Committee has been formed at Braintree, to make arrangements for carrying it into effect. We will not do the friends of ecclesiastical liberalism the injustice of doubting the success of this undertaking. It would be, indeed, "a heavy blow and sore discouragement" to find that Protestant Dissenters are more eager to welcome new friends than to appreciate the services of old ones. But this, we confess, we regard as a supposition too insulting to be entertained—and sure we are, in conclusion, that no method can be devised which is better fitted to help on the cause in which we are engaged, than that of generously recognising obligations which merit and success combine to impose upon the community.

THE GREAT NORTHERN DONCASTER CHURCH BILL.

The bill for compelling the Great Northern Railway Company to build a church at Doncaster, is to be read a second time to-morrow. In opposition to the bill the following statement has been circulated in the House:—"The object of this bill (requiring the Great Northern Railway Company to build and endow a Church and Schools at Doncaster) is foreign to the purpose of a railway company. The shareholders were promised at the February meeting, (see printed report, p. 35,) that application for the bill should not be made until further opportunity had been given for consideration of the subject. The dissentient share-

holders complain that they have received no notice that the matter was to be brought forward at any subsequent meeting. The directors' report insisted strongly upon the fact that the expense would not exceed £430 per annum. The bill makes the minimum at £580, with power to increase to £900 per annum. It is to be apprehended that this expense will fall exclusively on the shareholders of more limited resources, there being a large number who have not taken up the successive preferences and guaranteed shares of the company. The bill is not only enabling but imperative. The shareholders thus charged are undoubtedly of various religious persuasions; and at Doncaster the accommodation for public worship is already largely in excess, both of Mr. MANN's estimate and of what is actually used. The estimate is 58 per cent.; the accommodation at Doncaster is 75.4 per cent., of which 38.5 per cent. is provided by the Church of England. If in such a case the principle of this bill is sanctioned, what limit can be placed to its further extension?"

CONTEMPT OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

One of those troublesome tribunals, the Ecclesiastical Courts, has been imprisoning a poor woman for not paying the costs of "contempt." We inserted some letters relating to this case last autumn, and again invite attention to it, as it was brought before the House of Commons, on Tuesday, by Mr. Bright, in the shape of a petition from the sufferer.

The petition was from Charlotte Jones, who formerly resided in North Tyndal, and was the wife of a collier in that district, and the mother of fourteen children. She stated that in 1850 she was falsely charged with using language which was calumnious; that in consequence thereof she was served with a citation from the Consistory Courts of Llandaff; that she offered to make a reparation of words which she had never used, but the expenses amounted to between £7 and £8—a sum beyond the ability of herself or her husband to pay; that in the month of April last she was taken to Cardiff gaol; that she has thus been, from the 15th April, 1854, to the 26th February, 1855, incarcerated for an offence which she never committed. She also stated that she had applied to the Bishop of the Diocese and to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, from neither of which authorities had she obtained any relief. She therefore came to the House of Commons with the humble prayer that by the authority of Parliament, the law might be repealed which gives jurisdiction to the Ecclesiastical Court in cases of slander, and that steps might be taken to deliver her from her present position. We understand that a petition has also been presented to the House of Lords, and that the Lord Chancellor has intimated that a bill is in preparation to remove the evil. The imprisonment was for contempt, as she was too poor to employ a proctor in the suit. A gentleman of the neighbourhood charitably employed a proctor on her behalf, and an appearance was entered in November last; but the court refuses to issue a discharge until she pays the cost of the contempt.—*Daily News*. [Last night Mr. R. Phillimore obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts in suits for defamation of character.]

THE CHELMSFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir W. P. Wood, on Thursday morning delivered judgment in this important case. The points of discussion were two—first, whether the Court in settling a scheme for the administration of the charity would appoint additional trustees to act with the governing body, who by the terms of the charter granted by Edward VI., were created a corporation having perpetual succession, and with power to make (assisted by the bishop) statutes and ordinances for the regulation of the school; and, secondly, whether the Court would in that part of the scheme relating to religious instruction to the boys insert an exemption in favour of the children of Dissenters. The adoption of both these provisions was urged by a large body of persons in and near Chelmsford not belonging to the Church of England, whose views were brought before the Court by the Attorney-General. The scheme as proposed by the governors was, that the scholars of the said school "should be carefully and diligently taught by the master and under-master, under the direction of the master, in the holy Scriptures, the church catechism, the liturgy, doctrine, and discipline of the Church of England," and, by the 13th clause of the scheme, that "the scholars shall assemble at the school every Sunday at such times as the master shall direct, and shall attend under the care and supervision of the master or under-master, or one of them, the morning and afternoon services in the parish church, or such church as the governors, with the advice of the said lord bishop, shall direct." The proviso proposed by the Dissenters was as follows:—"Provided that no child whose parents or guardians shall, on conscientious grounds, object thereto, shall receive instruction in the holy Scriptures, or in the catechism, liturgy, doctrine, or discipline of the Church of England; provided also, that every such objection shall be in writing, and shall be made in the first instance to the head-master, who shall communicate the same to the board of Management." Upon these two points the petition was adjourned from chambers for discussion in court.

Mr. Rolt and Mr. Kenyon, on behalf of the governors, fortified their scheme, by the production of various authorities, showing that all foundations and institutions for education were bound by the common law, of which the canon law formed a part, and also by the statute law, to teach religion according to the established law, unless they could show some special exemption by act of Parliament; and

that the jurisdiction as to the fitness of the masters, and as to what they should teach, rested with the ordinary; and that these propositions were especially true as to grammar-schools, and more especially as to those founded by Edward VI.

Mr. Wickens, for the Attorney-General cited various larger authorities to show that the right had been recognized by the Court of relaxing the restriction as to the Anglican form of education to be given in schools of this nature. He urged that it was most desirable that some general rule should be laid down, so that the benefits of education at these schools might be extended to a larger class of the community than had hitherto been embraced.

His Honour gave an elaborate judgment, declining to adopt either the scheme proposed by the governors of the school, or that by the Attorney-General, as to the exemption of children from religious instruction whose parents objected, and leaving it to the governors and the bishop of the diocese to make such rules as they thought best, according to the charter. If the parties were dissatisfied with these rules, they might apply for a scheme, or possibly to the legislature for a special act of Parliament, as had been done in one case with success.

LIBERATION OF RELIGION SOCIETY.

BLACKBURN.—On Monday evening, Feb. 19th, a social meeting was held in the Mount-street, Lecture-room, in this town. Rev. F. Skinner presided. Rev. E. S. Pryce and Mr. Smith (the deputation from London), the Rev. W. Barker, E. Shalders, J. Unwin, and others took part in the proceedings.

WIGAN.—A meeting, convened by private circular signed by Messrs. Edward Evans, Thomas Cook, and William Park, was held in this town on Tuesday evening, Feb. 20th, at which the Rev. E. S. Pryce and Mr. H. Smith attended, on behalf of the Society in London. A corresponding committee of gentlemen of various religious denominations, with a treasurer and secretary, were appointed, and several liberal subscriptions were promised before the meeting separated.

BOURNE.—A numerous and highly respectable company assembled in the Duke's-alley School-room on Wednesday evening, Feb. 21st, at a meeting convened by private circular. The Revs. Robert Best, W. H. Davison, J. J. Owen, J. Smith, and F. Bates, A.M., were present and took part in the proceedings. After full explanation of the principles and operations of this society by the deputation, a committee was appointed to co-operate with the society in London, and a subscription list was started in aid of the funds.

BACUP.—A public meeting was held here on Thursday evening, Feb. 22. The Revs. Jonas Smith and Howard, besides the deputation, were the speakers, and arrangements are being made to secure subscriptions from this locality.

CAMBERWELL.—A highly respectable and well attended Soiree (convened by private invitation) was held on Wednesday evening last in the school-room attached to Camberwell-green Chapel. Wm. Edwards, Esq., occupied the chair, and Mr. Pollatt, M.P., Mr. Miall, M.P., Dr. Foster, Mr. Carvell Williams, Rev. J. Tiddy, Rev. J. Burnet, Rev. J. Waddington, Douglas Allport, Esq., F. Allport, Esq., Travers Buxton, Esq., R. Penninge, Esq., and Joseph Barrett, Esq., were among the company. Several handsome subscriptions and donations were announced.

ARCHDEACON DENISON'S CASE.—It is stated that the proceedings against Archdeacon Denison have not been abandoned. Some delay has taken place, but it has been occasioned by a desire to obtain from the ecclesiastical lawyers an opinion as to the best manner of proceeding in reference to the report which has been made to the Archbishop of Canterbury by the commissioners to whom the preliminary investigation was entrusted.

SECESSION FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—The Rev. D. Edwards, curate of King's Cliffe, announced from the pulpit of the parish church, on Sunday last, that on that day his brief labours as a minister of the church would cease. He proceeded to make numerous quotations from the Prayer Book, which he believed contained doctrines and enjoined practices at variance with the teachings of scripture. He also noticed the facility with which men of improper character obtained admission into the ministry, the unscriptural assumption of the priesthood, and the absence of the discipline necessary to the purity of a Christian church. For these and other reasons, he could no longer continue to officiate as a minister of the Church of England, or remain in her communion.—*Leicester Mercury*.

Religious Intelligence.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The tenth annual meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association was held in Exeter Hall on Tuesday se'nnight. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided. The Rev. W. W. Robinson having opened the meeting with prayer.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Tarlton, read an abstract of the report, which stated that, during the past year, great progress had been made in the associations of France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Holland, Sweden, the United States of America, Canada, and Australia; and that the committee had added India to the countries in which Young Men's Christian Associations had been formed. New associations had been formed in Leeds, Louth, Nottingham, Rochdale, Shrewsbury, Stockport, and Wortley,—making a total of thirty-five branches in Great Britain. In London, two new branches have been commenced; a well-organised one for the districts of Chelsea, Knights-

bridge, and Brompton, with good reading rooms, Bible class, and lecture arrangements; and one for the parishes of Marylebone and Paddington. Progress had also been made in the Bloomsbury, the Borough, and the East branches. During the past year, the West, the Bloomsbury, and the Borough branches had secured new premises and increased accommodation. In the Parent Association the past year had been one of special progress. For the expenses of lease, fixtures, repairs, and furnishing of the premises in Aldersgate-street, a special fund of £4,000 had been required, of which nearly £2,500 had been received. In the City, the average attendance at the Bible-classes was 300. Including the branch Bible-classes, ten were held weekly, with an average of nearly 700 attendants. The lectures of the association had been maintained with great efficiency and interest. No less than 166 lectures had been delivered during the year, and had been attended by upwards of 6,000 persons. There were five reading-rooms regularly open in London, in which the most healthy and efficient periodical literature was provided. In the City, the number of subscribers to the rooms was 800, and the average daily attendance about 300. There were now, in all, nearly 300 Christian Associations for young men in existence. The total receipts of the past year had been £4,870, the total expenditure £5,235; leaving a deficit of £365.

The noble Earl, in opening the business of the evening, dwelt with great satisfaction on signal success of the early closing movement in the metropolis, the result of which, far from justifying the sinister arguments of those who argued that the pastime so secured to young men would be misspent, had proved the great advantage of allowing an interval after the labours of the day for the relaxation of the mind from severer exertions, with a view to its culture and improvement.

Mr. Chestham, M.P., who moved a resolution urging the duty of self-sacrifice and prayer for the general welfare of the community upon all Christian young men, especially at this critical period in the world's history, avowed his approval of the policy of the early closing movement, notwithstanding his original opposition, and remarked that Manchester had set London a worthy example in this respect, by allowing a weekly half holiday to its employes. This resolution was seconded by the Rev. G. Smith, of Poplar, supported by the Rev. W. Puncheon, of Sheffield, and carried unanimously. The report for the past year is generally cheering, though there is a deficiency of £365 in the funds, the expenditure having amounted to £5,235, and the receipts to £4,870. The meeting was afterwards addressed in eloquent speeches by the Rev. E. Bickersteth and the Rev. M. le Pasteur Fisch, of Lyons, in support of the following resolution:—"That this meeting desires to recognise with devout thankfulness the concurrence of the Divine Providence in opening extended spheres of usefulness for the Young Men's Christian Association with these manifestations of spiritual power and blessing which have been graciously vouchsafed to its efforts during the past year, and offers the expression of its cordial and affectionate sympathy to the various branches of the Association in Great Britain and Ireland, and corresponding institutions throughout the world." The latter rev. gentleman (who spoke very good English) observed that there was now a general talk of "war," but they, of the Christian Association and its numerous branches in England and abroad, had to wage a very formidable war themselves, and to storm an almost impregnable fortress—the fortress of evil. Thanks be to God, however, they fought under a Captain who was invincible, and who always took good care of His soldiers. (Loud cheering.) He concluded by inviting the Association to a meeting to be held in Paris on the 4th of next July. A vote of thanks was then moved to the noble Chairman by the Rev. T. Binney, and the meeting separated at about half-past ten o'clock.

The last of the series of lectures, under the auspices of this society, was delivered at Exeter Hall on the preceding Tuesday by the Rev. S. Martin of Westminster. Subject:—"Opposition to Great Inventions and Discoveries." S. Morley, Esq., occupied the chair. The lecturer in the course of the proceedings announced that, as he had just left a sick bed, he should wish a verse of the National Anthem to be sung, to grant him relief; stating that, as he could not risk delivering all that he had prepared, his lecture would be necessarily, incomplete, he, however, concluded to the satisfaction of the audience.

THE REV. DAVID WILLIAMS having lately resigned his charge as minister of the congregation at Park-school, Blackburn, the people last week presented him with twenty-five sovereigns as a token of their respect and goodwill.

MANCHESTER, RUSHOLME-ROAD CHAPEL.—The Rev. Alexander Thomson, M.A., professor of Biblical Literature in Glasgow Theological College, has accepted an unanimous call to take the oversight of the Independent church and congregation, Rusholme-road, late under the charge of the Rev. James Griffin, whose declining health obliged him to resign. Mr. Thomson commences his labours about the beginning of June.

THE WAR—PUBLIC MEETING FOR PRAYER.—A meeting was convened on Thursday by the British Organisation of the Evangelical Alliance, for the purpose of united prayer on account of the present situation of the country. The meeting was very numerous attended, and included many of the leading ministers of the metropolis. The Rev. J. C. Ryle, of Helmingham, who occupied the chair, opened the proceedings with a short speech. A hymn was then sung, after which prayer was offered by the Rev. R. H. Herschell. A portion of the Bible was next read, and the Rev. J. Sherman afterwards also engaged in prayer. The Rev.

Dr. Steane, at the request of the chairman, gave some account of the ministerial labours of the Rev. Dr. Blackwood, as one of the chaplains at Scutari; after which, the Rev. J. B. Owen, of St. John's Chapel, Bedford-row, offered prayer. Another hymn was then sung, and the Rev. G. Fisch, of Lyons, addressed the meeting, which terminated afterwards with prayer by the chairman. Dr. Steane having stated the contributions of books and tracts, or flannel would be thankfully received at the Alliance office, to be forwarded to Dr. Blackwood, it was suggested that a collection should be made towards securing the necessary articles. The suggestion was heartily responded to.

LONDONERRY.—A recognition service was held on Tuesday evening last, in the above chapel, on the occasion of the induction of the Rev. Robert Sewell, to the pastorate of the congregation. The Rev. John Graham, of Dublin, occupied the chair. The services, which were of a very interesting kind, were commenced by the Rev. Robert Ross reading a portion of Scripture. Rev. Walter Ingles, late missionary in South Africa, delivered a short but appropriate address on the nature of the services in which they were about to engage. As customary on such occasions, the minute of the congregation, giving the call to Mr. Sewell, was then read by Mr. Orr, deacon, after which James Davis, Esq., of Lisnacarroil, stated the reasons which led the congregation to invite Mr. Sewell to their spiritual oversight. In the course of his address, Mr. Davis bore testimony to the energy and devotedness of their new pastor since he had come among them. Mr. Sewell at some length stated his reasons for accepting the unanimous call which he had received. Part of the 148th Psalm was then sung, after which the Rev. W. Ingles offered up the designation prayer. Rev. John Graham then delivered a beautiful and most impressive address to minister and people, on their respective duties and responsibilities. After engaging in prayer, and the chairman having pronounced the apostolic benediction, the meeting separated. A Soiree, in connection with the above event, was held in Corporation-hall, on Wednesday evening, at seven o'clock. Upwards of 200 persons of both sexes sat down to tea on the occasion, the reception-room being comfortably filled. After tea, Mr. Sewell, the newly-inducted pastor, was called to the chair, when several appropriate and instructive addresses were delivered. The speakers were—The Rev. Walter Ingles, Rev. Mr. Chancellor, Rev. John Graham, of Dublin, Rev. Robert Ross, and James Davis, Lisnacarroil. A vote of thanks having been passed to the ladies who presided at the tables, the meeting broke up shortly after eleven o'clock, all apparently gratified with the proceedings of the evening.—*Londonderry Sentinel*.

Correspondence.

GOVERNMENT SUBORDINATES AND THEIR DISSENTING SUPPORTERS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Mr. Lowe, in his significant Kidderminster speech, complained of the course pursued by the late Government, in that it sought to compel its subordinates to give anti-Dissenting votes, contrary to their own professed principles and the known wishes of a large section of their constituents—instancing the divisions on the Oxford Bill and Church-rate Abolition Bill.

On the second reading of Sir W. Clay's bill, wrote the *Times*, "every member of the Government was put in request, or rather, laid under orders; how little to their own taste appears from the fact, that eight responded to the summons; twenty-two stood aloof!"

In the re-shuffling of the political cards, several subordinate offices have to be, or have just been, filled up, and the Government is evidently looking to the Radical section for the support it so sorely requires.

Now are Admiral Berkeley, the Attorney and Solicitor General, Grenville Berkeley, Bernal Osborne, Charles Villiers, James Wilson, and some others who might be named, to be allowed by their Dissenting constituents again to shirk the division on the Church-rate Abolition Bill—a division sure to run close? And are we to lose the votes of Mr. Horsman and Mr. Laing?

It is, I believe, not likely that Lord Palmerston will repeat Lord John Russell's blunders in respect to such matters; but his lordship requires to be well looked after, and therefore, now, in this hour of dislocation, before the Ministry acquires strength to defy or disregard them, let Dissenting constituencies give their members distinctly to understand, that this time defection will be neither excused nor forgiven.

Monday afternoon.

J. C. W.

WALES AND ITS M.P.'S.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Allow me to thank "A Welshman from Liverpool" for his sensible letter to Wales and its members of Parliament, which appeared in the *Nonconformist* of Wednesday last.

Wales is generally, and justly, considered the cradle where Nonconformity is nursed with the greatest care, yet, surprising to say, we have not a single member, sent by us, to represent our cause in the House of Commons. Four out of every five of the constituency of Flintshire are thorough Nonconformists, yet the hon. member for the county, when elected last summer, declared himself a Churchman, and that he would feel it his duty to support the cause of the "Church of his fathers." This was openly declared on the hustings at Flint, and the local papers conveyed to the world the cheers that followed the hon. member's declaration. All due honour to the Mostyn family, their ancestry, patriotism, and liberality; but they do not represent us faithfully. I do not refer to the present hon. member

and his conduct in the House during the debates on war matters and the condition of the army, but I consider the question from the beginning to the present. He promised when elected to tread in the path of his hon. father, and to the present he is doing so; but that is not what will represent those who elected him their member. Let us take Rhyl for instance. Ten voters out of every hundred in that fast-thriving town could not be found that would oppose a candidate of Nonconformist principles. The other parts of the county may not be so strong, but I am confident that a candidate on this principle would be returned for the county of Flint by an overwhelming majority. In all probability we are on the eve of a general election. What is to be done? Are we for ever to be falsely represented—or may I say unrepresented—in the House of Commons? No; I hope not. Should Lord Palmerston appeal to the country, let us send men to represent us, and not to vote as their fathers did—men of principles, and not of blood; and for one, let me name Mr. Henry Richard, the talented editor of the *Peace Herald*—a man of unquestionable principles and abilities.

A WELSHMAN FROM HOLYWELL.

THE NEW BURIAL BOARDS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Folkestone, Feb. 21, 1855.

DEAR SIR,—May I beg the favour of a few lines in your valuable journal, to record briefly the circumstances attending the appointment of a Burial Board? It may be instructive to others who are about managing the same business.

On Friday, the 9th instant, a vestry-meeting of the ratepayers of this town was held, to take steps for procuring a public cemetery in lieu of the existing burial grounds, which, in pursuance of an order in Council, are each and all to be closed by September next.

The motion that a cemetery be provided in accordance with the Burial Act was unanimously carried. The next business, the appointment of a Burial Board, became the occasion of a contest and a triumph not soon to be forgotten by the inhabitants of Folkestone. Two lists of candidates were brought before the meeting. The churchwarden, acting in close concert with the parish clergyman (Rev. M. Woodward), proposed a Board of nine gentlemen, among whom his own name and the incumbent's figure prominently, while those of the Dissenting ministers were carefully omitted. I proposed an amendment, consisting (as, for convenience' sake, we phrase it) of laymen only, excluding all ministers, on the ground—admit a minister of each denomination or admit none; preferring, however, and for plain reasons, to have none. The Board thus offered represented all parties fairly, comprising five Episcopals and four Nonconformists. The amendment was immediately carried by a majority of twenty-two. A poll was demanded. It came off on Thursday and Friday last. The result was a signal defeat of High-Church pretensions. At its close, our ambitious but erring incumbent had the task of informing his parishioners, that the amendment was carried by a majority of 83. Thus the poll pronounced more loudly than the voice of the vestry in favour of fair play, and in condemnation of priestly intolerance.

It was the policy of the clergy to make this a pure question of Church and Dissent, and thus to gather around it all the prejudice and bitterness commonly inspired by these terms. This version of the affair we invariably repudiated, prevailing on the town to deal with it mainly as a matter of general interest, affecting all parties alike as citizens. By so doing, the hearty co-operation of staunch Churchmen in large numbers was secured.

And now we are permitted to review this local contest, both in its progress and its issue, with almost unmingled satisfaction. Its direct benefit, in obtaining a fair Burial Board which will protect the rights of Dissenters, is great. Its indirect benefits are perhaps still greater. Nonconformists of every shade have been brought together into vigorous and harmonious action. Churchmen have forgotten their differences in a generous combination to secure a measure of common sense and justice. The spirit of clerical encroachment has been publicly rebuked. The principle of religious equality has been emphatically affirmed. A lesson has been read to our young clergy they will long remember, and, we hope, lay to heart. Dissenters, during the contest, have taken out their principles for exercise and fresh air. They are braced and bettered by the process; and, from the recollection of this victory, will doubtless gather courage for any future struggle.—I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

DAVID JONES, Baptist Minister.

WHAT IS THE TRUE OBJECT OF THE WAR?

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I believe that the present miserable and humiliating state of the British army is truly, though not immediately or obviously, owing to our not having given the real and statesmanlike answer to this question; which, notwithstanding the deplorable *vainglory* that prevails on the subject, must be admitted by all reflecting minds to be one of the deepest importance. It will be conceded, I think, by all, that the present momentous war was entered upon by England and France in order to *repel* an attack directed by a first-rate power against a weaker neighbour, and through him against European progress and even existence; in short, that it is in its origin and aims a *defensive* war. It is this character that stamps it with glory, and tends every day to unite every state in Europe in a great moral confederation, as well as physical protest, against a wanton act of unprincipled aggression. It is a war engaged in and prosecuted "for the extinction of war."—Now, I believe, that by *invading* Russian territory we have entered on a course which was not justified by any necessity of defence; which,

even though it should prove in a military sense successful, will not secure the future peace of Europe; and one contrary to all the best interests of liberty and humanity.

To explain my meaning more fully, I will state and endeavour to illustrate two positions which appear to me as incontrovertible, as they have been and still are overlooked or disregarded.

First—It is simply impossible to crush Russia or even to reduce her military power to such an extent as to render her less formidable to Europe, by any attack which our united military resources can support. History proves too clearly that states, animated by a military spirit and carefully organised for warlike purposes, recover in an incredibly short time from any chastisement short of absolute annihilation; and that the very smart of the conquest endured impels them to seek the first opportunity of revenge and reprisals. Had we contented ourselves with maintaining a *defensive* attitude by sea, blockading Russia north and south, ruining her trade and commerce by preventing the transmission of her exports directly or indirectly (a thing never yet done, or even *effectually* attempted); and by land, repelling all her efforts against Turkey, baffling her and setting her huge armies at defiance, compelling them (as at Silistria) to retreat, and the abandonment of her military plans, and thus utterly destroying the *prestige* of her arms and renown,—we should then, indeed, probably, have had no brilliant victories of Alma or Inkermann to boast of, but we should have utterly humbled Russia, and taught her the great lesson that the greatest military power in the world is *powerless as an aggressor*, because all Europe is united against the aggressor. It is the glory of the peaceful nations of Europe, that their very strength and greatness as industrial communities incapacitates them from maintaining such military forces as are required only for purposes of aggression. If we would maintain our true position as regards Russia, we must remember that she is essentially barbarous, fanatical, and military, while the progress of European States tends to convert them more and more into a confederation of nations bound to each other by a community both of interest and sympathies, and by whom, therefore, war is only employed as a means of defence. If the presence of a neighbour such as Russia, compels all Europe to maintain great standing armies, it is, nevertheless, impolitic and unwise to give an impulse to *military tendencies*, beyond what the strict necessity of the occasion requires. By doing so we strengthen the hands of despotic power, and impair those peaceful and moral forces which are everywhere now struggling for existence, and by the growth of which alone we can hope to see liberty secured, and the cause of peace and progress vindicated throughout Europe. There are many who advocate striking what they call "a decisive blow" against the Russian power, destroying her fortresses, crippling her fleet, and some even who suggest the dismemberment of her empire by the restoration of Poland and Finland. Granting that this were possible, and that by a protracted war and after prodigious sacrifices all this could be achieved; will any one acquainted with the resources of the Russian empire venture to say that her power of future aggression would be thus destroyed or even seriously reduced? Then if on a future occasion she endeavoured to recover her position and lost possessions; what would we have to oppose to her rage and revengeful attacks? Simply the moral union of Europe backed by her cannons and her bayonets,—and therefore I contend, that there is no need and no justification for pushing this barbarous and unprincipled power to such extremities as must invite her to repeat the aggression when she may see the prospect of doing so with impunity. But then it is said that the present union of Europe is fortuitous, and that such a unanimity of states may not again occur. I believe this view is not correct, and that every fresh year tends more and more to unite the Western Nations in a horror of aggressive warfare, and to inspire them with the determination of resisting such attacks. But if it were true—that would furnish only a still more decisive argument for confining our military operations to those only (whether by land or by sea) which are purely *defensive*, and which, therefore, France and England, or even England alone and unaided, except by the Turks themselves, could at any future period employ, should Russia avail herself of intestine discords or national divisions in Europe to renew her present aggression. By invading Russia we have united against us, and to their monarch, a people known to be as proud and fanatical as they are enslaved and barbarous. By defending Turkey, and simply blockading Russia, I believe that we should have gradually turned all the principal Russian interests and sympathies against their chief and the war; and that we should ultimately have thus been in a position to demand and obtain all such material guarantees as are really necessary to secure Turkey. These have, I believe, been greatly exaggerated, for the destruction of the Russian prestige, coupled with the determined attitude of a united Europe, are the real guarantees for the future; much more potent, as their attainment has been more complete and grander, than any destruction of mere stone walls. This course, no doubt, did not suit our impatience, or flatter our national pride; but with an army reduced as ours is, and an enemy mustering 150,000 or 200,000 bayonets in the field, we may perhaps even yet see and admit that to crush or even to enfeeble Russia is no such easy matter.

Secondly—Besides the grave social objections above urged against the needless extension of this war beyond its original and legitimate objects, I would submit to the consideration of those who join in the cry for the restoration of Poland, of Finland, &c., how far, supposing their wishes could be realised, the attainment of the object is right or desirable? Has

holders complain that they have received no notice that the matter was to be brought forward at any subsequent meeting. The directors' report insisted strongly upon the fact that the expense would not exceed £430 per annum. The bill makes the minimum at £580, with power to increase to £900 per annum. It is to be apprehended that this expense will fall exclusively on the shareholders of more limited resources, there being a large number who have not taken up the successive preference and guaranteed shares of the company. The bill is not only enabling but imperative. The shareholders thus charged are undoubtedly of various religious persuasions; and at Doncaster the accommodation for public worship is already largely in excess, both of Mr. MANN'S estimate and of what is actually used. The estimate is 58 per cent.; the accommodation at Doncaster is 75.4 per cent., of which 38.5 per cent. is provided by the Church of England. If in such a case the principle of this bill is sanctioned, what limit can be placed to its further extension?"

CONTEMPT OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

One of those troublesome tribunals, the Ecclesiastical Courts, has been imprisoning a poor woman for not paying the costs of "contempt." We inserted some letters relating to this case last autumn, and again invite attention to it, as it was brought before the House of Commons, on Tuesday, by Mr. Bright, in the shape of a petition from the sufferer.

The petition was from Charlotte Jones, who formerly resided in Merthyr Tydvil, and was the wife of a collier in that district, and the mother of fourteen children. She stated that in 1850 she was falsely charged with using language which was calumnious; that in consequence thereof she was served with a citation from the Consistory Courts of Llandaff; that she offered to make a recantation of words which she had never used, but the expenses amounted to between £7 and £8—a sum beyond the ability of herself or her husband to pay; that in the month of April last she was taken to Cardiff gaol; that she has thus been, from the 15th April, 1854, to the 20th February, 1855, incarcerated for an offence which she never committed. She also stated that she had applied to the Bishop of the diocese and to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, from neither of which authorities had she obtained any relief. She therefore came to the House of Commons with the humble prayer that by the authority of Parliament, the law might be repealed which gives jurisdiction to the Ecclesiastical Court in cases of slander, and that steps might be taken to deliver her from her present position. We understand that a petition has also been presented to the House of Lords, and that the Lord Chancellor has intimated that a bill is in preparation to remove the evil. The imprisonment was for contempt, as she was too poor to employ a proctor in the suit. A gentleman of the neighbourhood charitably employed a proctor on her behalf, and an appearance was entered in November last; but the court refuses to issue a discharge until she pays the cost of the contempt.—*Daily News*. [Last night Mr. R. Phillimore obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts in suits for defamation of character.]

THE CHELMSFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir W. P. Wood, on Thursday morning delivered judgment in this important case. The points of discussion were two—first, whether the Court in settling a scheme for the administration of the charity would appoint additional trustees to act with the governing body, who by the terms of the charter granted by Edward VI., were created a corporation having perpetual succession, and with power to make (assisted by the bishop) statutes and ordinances for the regulation of the school; and, secondly, whether the Court would in that part of the scheme relating to religious instruction to the boys insert an exemption in favour of the children of Dissenters. The adoption of both these provisions was urged by a large body of persons in and near Chelmsford not belonging to the Church of England, whose views were brought before the Court by the Attorney-General. The scheme as proposed by the governors was, that the scholars of the said school "should be carefully and diligently taught by the master and under-master, under the direction of the master, in the holy Scriptures, the church catechism, the liturgy, doctrine, and discipline of the Church of England," and, by the 13th clause of the scheme, that, "the scholars shall assemble at the school every Sunday at such times as the master shall direct, and shall attend under the care and supervision of the master or under-master, or one of them, the morning and afternoon services in the parish church, or such church as the governors, with the advice of the said lord bishop, shall direct." The proviso proposed by the Dissenters was as follows:—"Provided that no child whose parents or guardians shall, on conscientious grounds, object thereto, shall receive instruction in the holy Scriptures, or in the catechism, liturgy, doctrine, or discipline of the Church of England; provided also, that every such objection shall be in writing, and shall be made in the first instance to the head-master, who shall communicate the same to the board of Management." Upon these two points the petition was adjourned from chambers for discussion in court.

Mr. Rolt and Mr. Kenyon, on behalf of the governors, fortified their scheme, by the production of various authorities, showing that all foundations and institutions for education were bound by the common law, of which the canon law formed a part, and also by the statute law, to teach religion according to the established law, unless they could show some special exemption by act of Parliament; and

that the jurisdiction as to the fitness of the masters, and as to what they should teach, rested with the ordinary; and that these propositions were especially true as to grammar-schools, and more especially as to those founded by Edward VI.

Mr. Wickens, for the Attorney-General cited various larger authorities to show that the right had been recognized by the Court of relaxing the restriction as to the Anglican form of education to be given in schools of this nature. He urged that it was most desirable that some general rule should be laid down, so that the benefits of education at these schools might be extended to a larger class of the community than had hitherto been embraced.

His Honour gave an elaborate judgment, declining to adopt either the scheme proposed by the governors of the school, or that by the Attorney-General, as to the exemption of children from religious instruction whose parents objected, and leaving it to the governors and the bishop of the diocese to make such rules as they thought best, according to the charter. If the parties were dissatisfied with these rules, they might apply for a scheme, or possibly to the legislature for a special act of Parliament, as had been done in one case with success.

LIBERATION OF RELIGION SOCIETY.

BLACKBURN.—On Monday evening, Feb. 19th, a social meeting was held in the Mount-street, Lecture-room, in this town. Rev. F. Skinner presided. Rev. E. S. Pryce and Mr. Smith (the deputation from London), the Rev. W. Barker, E. Shalders, J. Unwin, and others took part in the proceedings.

WIGAN.—A meeting, convened by private circular signed by Messrs. Edward Evans, Thomas Cook, and William Park, was held in this town on Tuesday evening, Feb. 20th, at which the Rev. E. S. Pryce and Mr. H. Smith attended, on behalf of the Society in London. A corresponding committee of gentlemen of various religious denominations, with a treasurer and secretary, were appointed, and several liberal subscriptions were promised before the meeting separated.

BOLTON.—A numerous and highly respectable company assembled in the Duke's-alley School-room on Wednesday evening, Feb. 21st, at a meeting convened by private circular. The Revs. Robert Best, W. H. Davison, J. J. Owen, J. Smith, and F. Bates, A.M., were present and took part in the proceedings. After full explanation of the principles and operations of this society by the deputation, a committee was appointed to co-operate with the society in London, and a subscription list was started in aid of the funds.

BACUP.—A public meeting was held here on Thursday evening, Feb. 22. The Revs. Jonas Smith and Howard, besides the deputation, were the speakers, and arrangements are being made to secure subscriptions from this locality.

CAMBERWELL.—A highly respectable and well attended Soiree (convened by private invitation) was held on Wednesday evening last in the school-room attached to Camberwell-green Chapel. Wm. Edwards, Esq., occupied the chair, and Mr. Pellatt, M.P., Mr. Miall, M.P., Dr. Foster, Mr. Carvell Williams, Rev. J. Tiddy, Rev. J. Burnet, Rev. J. Waddington, Douglas Allport, Esq., F. Allport, Esq., Travers Buxton, Esq., R. Pennings, Esq., and Joseph Barrett, Esq., were among the company. Several handsome subscriptions and donations were announced.

ARCHDEACON DENISON'S CASE.—It is stated that the proceedings against Archdeacon Denison have not been abandoned. Some delay has taken place, but it has been occasioned by a desire to obtain from the ecclesiastical lawyers an opinion as to the best manner of proceeding in reference to the report which has been made to the Archbishop of Canterbury by the commissioners to whom the preliminary investigation was entrusted.

SECESSION FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—The Rev. D. Edwards, curate of King's Cliffe, announced from the pulpit of the parish church, on Sunday last, that on that day his brief labours as a minister of the church would cease. He proceeded to make numerous quotations from the Prayer Book, which he believed contained doctrines and enjoined practices at variance with the teachings of scripture. He also noticed the facility with which men of improper character obtained admission into the ministry, the unscripural assumption of the priesthood, and the absence of the discipline necessary to the purity of a Christian church. For these and other reasons, he could no longer continue to officiate as a minister of the Church of England, or remain in her communion.—*Leicester Mercury*.

Religious Intelligence.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The tenth annual meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association was held in Exeter Hall on Tuesday evening. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided. The Rev. W. W. Robinson having opened the meeting with prayer.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Tarlton, read an abstract of the report, which stated that, during the past year, great progress had been made in the associations of France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Holland, Sweden, the United States of America, Canada, and Australia; and that the committee had added India to the countries in which Young Men's Christian Associations had been formed. New associations had been formed in Leeds, Louth, Nottingham, Rochdale, Shrewsbury, Stockport, and Wortley,—making a total of thirty-five branches in Great Britain. In London, two new branches have been commenced; a well-organised one for the districts of Chelsea, Knights-

bridge, and Brompton, with good reading rooms, Bible class, and lecture arrangements; and one for the parishes of Marylebone and Paddington. Progress had also been made in the Bloomsbury, the Borough, and the East branches. During the past year, the West, the Bloomsbury, and the Borough branches had secured new premises and increased accommodation. In the Parent Association the past year had been one of special progress. For the expenses of lease, fixtures, repairs, and furnishing of the premises in Aldersgate-street, a special fund of £3,500 had been required, of which nearly £2,500 had been received, in the City the average attendance at the Bible-classes was 300. Including the branch Bible-classes, ten were held weekly, with an average of nearly 700 attendants. The lectures of the association had been maintained with great efficiency and interest. No less than 165 lectures had been delivered during the year, and had been attended by upwards of 6,000 persons. There were five reading-rooms regularly open in London, in which the most healthy and efficient periodical literature was provided. In the City, the number of subscribers to the rooms was 800, and the average daily attendance about 300. There were now, in all, nearly 300 Christian Associations for young men in existence. The total receipts of the past year had been £4,870, the total expenditure £5,235; leaving a deficit of £365.

The noble Earl, in opening the business of the evening, dwelt with great satisfaction on signal success of the early closing movement in the metropolis, the result of which, far from justifying the sinister arguings of those who argued that the pastime so secured to young men would be misspent, had proved the great advantage of allowing an interval after the labours of the day for the relaxation of the mind from severer exertions, with a view to its culture and improvement.

Mr. Cheetham, M.P., who moved a resolution urging the duty of self-sacrifice and prayer for the general welfare of the community upon all Christian young men, especially at this critical period in the world's history, avowed his approval of the policy of the early closing movement, notwithstanding his original opposition, and remarked that Manchester had set London a worthy example in this respect, by allowing a weekly half holiday to its employees. This resolution was seconded by the Rev. G. Smith, of Poplar, supported by the Rev. W. Punshon, of Sheffield, and carried unanimously. The report for the past year is generally cheering, though there is a deficiency of £365 in the funds, the expenditure having amounted to £5,235, and the receipts to £4,870. The meeting was afterwards addressed in eloquent speeches by the Rev. E. Bickersteth and the Rev. M. le Pasteur Fisch, of Lyons, in support of the following resolution:—"That this meeting desires to recognise with devout thankfulness the concurrence of the Divine Providence in opening extended spheres of usefulness for the Young Men's Christian Association with those manifestations of spiritual power and blessing which have been graciously vouchsafed to its efforts during the past year, and offers the expression of its cordial and affectionate sympathy to the various branches of the Association in Great Britain and Ireland, and corresponding institutions throughout the world." The latter rev. gentleman (who spoke very good English) observed that there was now a general talk of "war," but they, of the Christian Association and its numerous branches in England and abroad, had to wage a very formidable war themselves, and to storm an almost impregnable fortress—the fortress of evil. Thanks be to God, however, they fought under a Captain who was invincible, and who always took good care of His soldiers. (Loud cheering.) He concluded by inviting the Association to a meeting to be held in Paris on the 4th of next July. A vote of thanks was then moved to the noble Chairman by the Rev. T. Binney, and the meeting separated at about half-past ten o'clock.

The last of the series of lectures, under the auspices of this society, was delivered at Exeter Hall on the preceding Tuesday by the Rev. S. Martin of Westminster. Subject:—"Opposition to Great Inventions and Discoveries." S. Morley, Esq., occupied the chair. The lecturer in the course of the proceedings announced that, as he had just left a sick bed, he should wish a verse of the National Anthem to be sung, to grant him relief; stating that, as he could not risk delivering all that he had prepared, his lecture would be necessarily, incomplete. He, however, concluded to the satisfaction of the audience.

THE REV. DAVID WILLIAMS having lately resigned his charge as minister of the congregation at Park-school, Blackburn, the people last week presented him with twenty-five sovereigns as a token of their respect and goodwill.

MANCHESTER, RUSHOLME-ROAD CHAPEL.—The Rev. Alexander Thomson, M.A., professor of Biblical Literature in Glasgow Theological College, has accepted an unanimous call to take the oversight of the Independent church and congregation, Rusholme-road, late under the charge of the Rev. James Griffin, whose declining health obliged him to resign. Mr. Thomson commences his labours about the beginning of June.

THE WAR—PUBLIC MEETING FOR PRAYER.—A meeting was convened on Thursday by the British Organisation of the Evangelical Alliance, for the purpose of united prayer on account of the present situation of the country. The meeting was very numerous attended, and included many of the leading ministers of the metropolis. The Rev. J. C. Ryle, of Helmingham, who occupied the chair, opened the proceedings with a short speech. A hymn was then sung, after which prayer was offered by the Rev. R. H. Herschell. A portion of the Bible was next read, and the Rev. J. Sherman afterwards also engaged in prayer. The Rev.

Dr. Steane, at the request of the chairman, gave some account of the ministerial labours of the Rev. Dr. Blackwood, as one of the chaplains at Scutari; after which, the Rev. J. B. Owen, of St. John's Chapel, Bedford-row, offered prayer. Another hymn was then sung, and the Rev. G. Fisch, of Lyons, addressed the meeting, which terminated afterwards with prayer by the chairman. Dr. Steane having stated the contributions of books and tracts, or flannel would be thankfully received at the Alliance office, to be forwarded to Dr. Blackwood, it was suggested that a collection should be made towards securing the necessary articles. The suggestion was heartily responded to.

LONDONDERRY.—A recognition service was held on Tuesday evening last, in the above chapel, on the occasion of the induction of the Rev. Robert Sewell, to the pastorate of the congregation. The Rev. John Graham, of Dublin, occupied the chair. The services, which were of a very interesting kind, were commenced by the Rev. Robert Ross reading a portion of Scripture. Rev. Walter Ingles, late missionary in South Africa, delivered a short but appropriate address on the nature of the services in which they were about to engage. As customary on such occasions, the minute of the congregation, giving the call to Mr. Sewell, was then read by Mr. Orr, deacon, after which James Davis, Esq., of Lisnacarroil, stated the reasons which led the congregation to invite Mr. Sewell to their spiritual oversight. In the course of his address, Mr. Davis bore testimony to the energy and devotedness of their new pastor since he had come among them. Mr. Sewell at some length stated his reasons for accepting the unanimous call which he had received. Part of the 143rd Psalm was then sung, after which the Rev. W. Ingles offered up the designation prayer. Rev. John Graham then delivered a beautiful and most impressive address to minister and people, on their respective duties and responsibilities. After engaging in prayer, and the chairman having pronounced the apostolic benediction, the meeting separated. A Soiree, in connection with the above event, was held in Corporation-hall, on Wednesday evening, at seven o'clock. Upwards of 200 persons of both sexes sat down to tea on the occasion, the reception-room being comfortably filled. After tea, Mr. Sewell, the newly-inducted pastor, was called to the chair, when several appropriate and instructive addresses were delivered. The speakers were—The Rev. Walter Ingles, Rev. Mr. Chancellor, Rev. John Graham, of Dublin, Rev. Robert Ross, and James Davis, Lisnacarroil. A vote of thanks having been passed to the ladies who presided at the tables, the meeting broke up shortly after eleven o'clock, all apparently gratified with the proceedings of the evening.—*Londonderry Sentinel*.

Correspondence.

GOVERNMENT SUBORDINATES AND THEIR DISSENTING SUPPORTERS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Mr. Lowe, in his significant Kidderminster speech, complained of the course pursued by the late Government, in that it sought to compel its subordinates to give anti-Dissenting votes, contrary to their own professed principles and the known wishes of a large section of their constituents—instancing the divisions on the Oxford Bill and Church-rate Abolition Bill.

On the second reading of Sir W. Clay's bill, wrote the *Times*, "every member of the Government was put in request, or rather, laid under orders; how little to their own taste appears from the fact, that eight responded to the summons; twenty-two stood aloof!"

In the re-shuffling of the political cards, several subordinate offices have to be, or have just been, filled up, and the Government is evidently looking to the Radical section for the support it so sorely requires.

Now are Admiral Berkeley, the Attorney and Solicitor General, Grenville Berkeley, Bernal Osborne, Charles Villiers, James Wilson, and some others who might be named, to be allowed by their Dissenting constituents again to shirk the division on the Church-rate Abolition Bill—a division sure to run close? And are we to lose the votes of Mr. Horsman and Mr. Laing?

It is, I believe, not likely that Lord Palmerston will repeat Lord John Russell's blunders in respect to such matters; but his lordship requires to be well looked after, and therefore, now, in this hour of dislocation, before the Ministry acquires strength to defy or disregard them, let Dissenting constituencies give their members distinctly to understand, that this time defection will be neither excused nor forgiven.

Monday afternoon.

J. C. W.

WALES AND ITS M.P.'S.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Allow me to thank "A Welshman from Liverpool" for his sensible letter to Wales and its members of Parliament, which appeared in the *Nonconformist* of Wednesday last.

Wales is generally, and justly, considered the cradle where Nonconformity is nursed with the greatest care, yet, surprising to say, we have not a single member sent by us, to represent our cause in the House of Commons. Four out of every five of the constituency of Flintshire are thorough Nonconformists, yet the hon. member for the county, when elected last summer, declared himself a Churchman, and that he would feel it his duty to support the cause of the "Church of his fathers." This was openly declared on the hustings at Flint, and the local papers conveyed to the world the cheers that followed the hon. member's declaration. All due honour to the Mostyn family, their ancestry, patriotism, and liberality; but they do not represent us faithfully. I do not refer to the present hon. member

and his conduct in the House during the debates on war matters and the condition of the army, but I consider the question from the beginning to the present. He promised when elected to tread in the path of his hon. father, and to the present he is doing so; but that is not what will represent those who elected him their member. Let us take Rhyl for instance. Ten voters out of every hundred in that fast-thriving town could not be found that would oppose a candidate of Nonconformist principles. The other parts of the county may not be so strong, but I am confident that a candidate on this principle would be returned for the county of Flint by an overwhelming majority. In all probability we are on the eve of a general election. What is to be done? Are we for ever to be falsely represented—or may I say unrepresented—in the House of Commons? No; I hope not. Should Lord Palmerston appeal to the country, let us send men to represent us, and not to vote as their fathers did—men of principles, and not of blood; and for one, let me name Mr. Henry Richard, the talented editor of the *Peace Herald*—a man of unquestionable principles and abilities.

A WELSHMAN FROM HOLYWELL.

THE NEW BURIAL BOARDS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Folkestone, Feb. 21, 1855.

DEAR SIR,—May I beg the favour of a few lines in your valuable journal, to record briefly the circumstances attending the appointment of a Burial Board? It may be instructive to others who are about managing the same business.

On Friday, the 9th instant, a vestry-meeting of the ratepayers of this town was held, to take steps for procuring a public cemetery in lieu of the existing burial grounds, which, in pursuance of an order in Council, are each and all to be closed by September next.

The motion that a cemetery be provided in accordance with the Burial Act was unanimously carried. The next business, the appointment of a Burial Board, became the occasion of a contest and a triumph not soon to be forgotten by the inhabitants of Folkestone. Two lists of candidates were brought before the meeting. The churchwarden, acting in close concert with the parish clergyman (Rev. M. Woodward), proposed a Board of nine gentlemen, among whom his own name and the incumbent's figure prominently, while those of the Dissenting ministers were carefully omitted. I proposed an amendment, consisting (as, for convenience' sake, we phrase it) of laymen only, excluding all ministers, on the ground—admit a minister of each denomination or admit none; preferring, however, and for plain reasons, to have none. The Board thus offered represented all parties fairly, comprising five Episcopalians and four Nonconformists. The amendment was immediately carried by a majority of twenty-two. A poll was demanded. It came off on Thursday and Friday last. The result was a signal defeat of High-Church pretensions. At its close, our ambitious but erring incumbent had the task of informing his parishioners, that the amendment was carried by a majority of 63. Thus the poll pronounced more loudly than the voice of the vestry in favour of fair play, and in condemnation of priestly intolerance.

It was the policy of the clergy to make this a pure question of Church and Dissent, and thus to gather around it all the prejudice and bitterness commonly inspired by those terms. This version of the affair we invariably repudiated, prevailing on the town to deal with it mainly as a matter of general interest, affecting all parties alike as citizens. By so doing, the hearty co-operation of staunch Churchmen in large numbers was secured.

And now we are permitted to review this local contest, both in its progress and its issue, with almost unmingled satisfaction. Its direct benefit, in obtaining a fair Burial Board which will protect the rights of Dissenters, is great. Its indirect benefits are perhaps still greater. Nonconformists of every shade have been brought together into vigorous and harmonious action. Churchmen have forgotten their differences in a generous combination to secure a measure of common sense and justice. The spirit of clerical encroachment has been publicly rebuked. The principle of religious equality has been emphatically affirmed. A lesson has been read to our young clergy they will long remember, and, we hope, lay to heart. Dissenters, during the contest, have taken out their principles for exercise and fresh air. They are braced and bettered by the process; and, from the recollection of this victory, will doubtless gather courage for any future struggle.—I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

DAVID JONES, Baptist Minister.

WHAT IS THE TRUE OBJECT OF THE WAR?

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I believe that the present miserable and humiliating state of the British army is truly, though not immediately or obviously, owing to our not having given the real and statesmanlike answer to this question; which, notwithstanding the deplorable vagueness that prevails on the subject, must be admitted by all reflecting minds to be one of the deepest importance. It will be conceded, I think, by all, that the present momentous war was entered upon by England and France in order to *repel* an attack directed by a first-rate power against a weaker neighbour, and through him against European progress and even existence; in short, that it is in its origin and aims a *defensive* war. It is this character that stamps it with glory, and tends every day to unite every state in Europe in a great moral confederation, as well as physical protest, against a wanton act of unprincipled aggression. It is a war engaged in and prosecuted "for the extinction of war."—Now, I believe, that by invading Russian territory we have entered on a course which was not justified by any necessity of defence; which,

even though it should prove in a military sense successful, will not secure the *future* peace of Europe; and one contrary to all the best interests of liberty and humanity.

To explain my meaning more fully, I will state and endeavour to illustrate two positions which appear to me as incontrovertible, as they have been and still are overlooked or disregarded.

First—It is simply impossible to crush Russia or even to reduce her military power to such an extent as to render her less formidable to Europe, by any attack which our united military resources can support. History proves too clearly that states, animated by a military spirit and carefully organised for warlike purposes, recover in an incredibly short time from any chastisement short of absolute annihilation; and that the very smart of the conquest endured impels them to seek the first opportunity of revenge and reprisals. Had we contented ourselves with maintaining a *defensive* attitude by sea, blockading Russia north and south, ruining her trade and commerce by preventing the transmission of her exports directly or indirectly (a thing never yet done, or even effectually attempted); and by land, repelling all her efforts against Turkey, baffling her and setting her huge armies at defiance, compelling them (as at Silistria) to retreat, and the abandonment of her military plans, and thus utterly destroying the *prestige* of her arms and renown,—we should then, indeed, probably, have had no brilliant victories of Alma or Inkermann to boast of, but we should have utterly humbled Russia, and taught her the great lesson that the greatest military power in the world is *powerless as an aggressor*, because all Europe is united against the aggressor. It is the glory of the peaceful nations of Europe, that their very strength and greatness as industrial communities incapacitates them from maintaining such military forces as are required only for purposes of aggression. If we would maintain our true position as regards Russia, we must remember that she is essentially barbarous, fanatical, and military, while the progress of European States tends to convert them more and more into a confederation of nations bound to each other by a community both of interest and sympathies, and by whom, therefore, war is only employed as a means of defence. If the presence of a neighbour such as Russia, compels all Europe to maintain great standing armies, it is, nevertheless, impolitic and unwise to give an impulse to military tendencies, beyond what the strict necessity of the occasion requires. By doing so we strengthen the hands of despotic power, and impair those peaceful and moral forces which are everywhere now struggling for existence, and by the growth of which alone we can hope to see liberty secured, and the cause of peace and progress vindicated throughout Europe. There are many who advocate striking what they call "a decisive blow" against the Russian power, destroying her fortresses, crippling her fleet, and some even who suggest the dismemberment of her empire by the restoration of Poland and Finland. Granting that this were possible, and that by a protracted war and after prodigious sacrifices all this could be achieved; will any one acquainted with the resources of the Russian empire venture to say that her power of *future* aggression would be thus destroyed or even seriously reduced? Then if on a future occasion she endeavoured to recover her position and lost possessions; what would we have to oppose to her rage and revengeful attacks? Simply the moral union of Europe backed by her cannons and her bayonets,—and therefore I contend, that there is no need and no justification for pushing this barbarous and unprincipled power to such extremities as must invite her to repeat the aggression when she may see the prospect of doing so with impunity. But then it is said that the present union of Europe is fortuitous, and that such a unanimity of states may not again occur. I believe this view is not correct, and that every fresh year tends more and more to unite the Western Nations in a horror of aggressive warfare, and to inspire them with the determination of resisting such attacks. But if it were true—that would furnish only a still more decisive argument for confining our military operations to those only (whether by land or by sea) which are purely *defensive*, and which, therefore, France and England, or even England alone and unaided, except by the Turks themselves, could at any future period employ, should Russia avail herself of intestine discords or national divisions in Europe to renew her present aggression. By invading Russia we have united against us, and to their monarch, a people known to be as proud and fanatical as they are enslaved and barbarous. By defending Turkey, and simply blockading Russia, I believe that we should have gradually turned all the principal Russian interests and sympathies against their chief and the war; and that we should ultimately have thus been in a position to demand and obtain all such material guarantees as are *really* necessary to secure Turkey. These have, I believe, been greatly exaggerated, for the destruction of the Russian prestige, coupled with the determined attitude of a united Europe, are the real guarantees for the future; much more potent, as their attainment has been more complete and grander, than any destruction of mere stone walls. This course, no doubt, did not suit our impatience, or flatter our national pride; but with an army reduced as ours is, and an enemy mustering 150,000 or 200,000 bayonets in the field, we may perhaps even yet see and admit that to crush or even to enfeeble Russia is no such easy matter.

Secondly—Besides the grave social objections above urged against the needless extension of this war beyond its original and legitimate objects, I would submit to the consideration of those who join in the cry for the restoration of Poland, of Finland, &c., how far, supposing their wishes could be realized, the attainment of the object is right or desirable? Has

British interference in Sicily, in Spain, in France, or in Portugal, been so successful and so advantageous for the cause of liberty as to encourage the repetition of similar experiments? I believe, Sir, that in meddling authoritatively with the internal affairs of other States, we should be meddling with phenomena, of which we know not the laws, and retarding the progress we wish to aid. We think highly, and in part justly, of our Parliamentary system and British constitution; but if these institutions are fitted to us, because they have risen spontaneously and gradually, and have developed themselves under conditions, I believe, mainly peculiar to England; for that very reason it is absurd and dangerous to seek to impose them on continental nations, whose history and traditions, as well as their habits and feelings, are generally the reverse of ours in most important respects. Europe requires, no doubt, a great political regeneration, and she will work it out for herself I am convinced; but it is equally certain that this regeneration will and can only proceed from an antecedent moral and social regeneration—a work which will not spring up in a day, by transplanting institutions natural to our soil, but foreign to theirs; but which will arise slowly but surely from the gradual expansion of germs now struggling into existence. I believe, Sir, that it is no exaggeration to say, that the worst enemies of real European progress and European liberties, are the advocates of that revolutionary and violent policy which everywhere substitutes institutions for earnest and thoughtful convictions, artificial mechanism for free growth, and which now seeks to profit by popular excitement in furthering its insane and dangerous schemes, fatal alike to order and progress.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

A LOVER OF PEACE, THOUGH NOT A MEMBER
OF THE "PEACE SOCIETY."

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Army Promotion, for alteration of, 1.
Day for Prayer and Fasting, in favour of, 4.
Army Reform, in favour of, 1.
Army (Crimes) for inquiry, 9.
Bills of Exchange, &c., Bill, against, 7.
—for, 7.
Distillation from grain, for prohibition of, 8.
Episcopal, &c., Estates Bill, against, 4.
Fairs and Markets (Ireland) Bill, against, 1.
Intoxicating Liquors, for prohibiting the sale of, 20.
Licensing System, for Restoration of, 1.
Newspaper Stamp, for abolition of, 10.
Nuisances Removal, &c., Bill, against, 2.
Paper Duty, for repeal of, 3.
Polish Independence, for restoration of, 1.
Public Departments, for reform of, 1.
Public Health Act Amendment Bill, against, 3.
Real Estate, for amendment of law, of, 1.
Sale of Beer Act, for repeal of, 3.
—against, 1.
Stage Carriages, for abolition of mileage duties, 16.
Wages, against stoppage of, 12.
Arbitration, in favour of, 1.
Court of Chancery, for reform of, 1.
Maynooth Report, to expedite, 1.
Affirmation instead of oaths, in favour of, 1.
Municipal Corporation Act, for amendment of, 1.
Burial Grounds, for alteration of law, 1.
Church Rates (from clergymen) for abolition of, 1.
Maynooth Grant, for withdrawal of, 1.
Her Majesty's Ministers, for inquiry into their conduct, 1.
Newspaper Bill, against, 1.
—in favour of, 1.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Army Service Act Amendment Bill.
Public Prosecutors Bill.
Marine Mutiny Bill.
Mutiny Bill.
Newspaper, &c., Postage and Stamp Duties Bill.
Sea Coast Fisheries (Ireland) Bill.
Inland Fisheries (Ireland) Bill.
Dwelling Houses (Scotland) Bill.
Cathedral Appointments Act Continuance Bill.
Court of Chancery (Ireland) (Jurisdiction) Bill.
—(Procedure) Bill.
—(Receivers) Bill.
—(Sale of Estates) Bill.
—(Appeals) Bill.
—(Stamp Duties) Bill.
Intestacy (Scotland) Bill.
Consolidated Fund (£20,000,000) Bill.
Militia (Ireland) Bill.
Commons Inclosure Bill.
Dean and Woolmer Forest Bill.
Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Bill.
Advances Bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Nuisances Removal, &c., Bill.
Public Health Bill.
Mutiny Bill.
Marine Mutiny Bill.
Army Service Act Amendment Bill.
Consolidated Fund (£20,000,000) Bill.
Military (Ireland) Bill.
Commons Inclosure Bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Common Law Procedure Act Amendment (Ireland) Bill.
Army Service Act Amendment Bill.
Marine Mutiny Bill.
Mutiny Bill.
Nuisances Removal, &c., Bill.
Consolidated Fund (£20,000,000) Bill.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME.

Army Service Act Amendment Bill.

DEBATES.

THE HEALTH BILLS.

In moving the second reading of the Nuisances Removal Bill and of the Public Health Bill, on Wednesday, in order that they might be referred to a Select Committee, Sir BENJAMIN HALL stated some alterations which it would be advisable to make in the former. The provisions of that bill will be confined to England and Wales alone, as the Lord Advocate for Scotland and the Secretary for Ireland have consented to the introduction of separate bills for those parts, of the United Kingdom. The bill contains two parts, one of general application, the other to be applied under special circumstances. It will be an amendment if the

bill be divided into two parts. The clauses of the bill adopted from the Building Act will be struck out. He trusted that the Select Committee would set their faces against any great prolongation of evidence, and not suffer any delay through the opposition of the gas and water companies, but enable him to carry the measures 'his session.

Both bills were read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee.

On the motion of Sir B. HALL on Monday, the following were nominated the select committee on the Public Health Bill and Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Act Consolidation and Amendment Bill:—Sir B. Hall, Mr. Irton, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Adderley, Lord R. Grosvenor, Mr. Horsfall, Viscount Goderich, Mr. Freshfield, Mr. Austin Bruce, Sir John Hammer, Mr. Knight, Mr. Gore Langton, Mr. James Macgregor, and Mr. Thomas Greene.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

From his place in the House of Commons, on Thursday evening, Lord PALMERSTON announced, that Mr. Gladstone, Sir James Graham, and Mr. Sidney Herbert, had resigned their offices, and only held them until their successors be appointed. Under these circumstances, he proposed that no public business should be entered upon, except those orders to which there was no objection. His right honourable friends would attend in their places on Friday, and state the grounds which had led them to resign.

Mr. DISRAELI said, he heard with deep regret, and some consternation, that the Cabinet so recently formed, and which he hoped would have had a much longer existence, had come so suddenly to a disruption. In the absence of the gentlemen who had resigned, it would be improper to make any remarks on their conduct; which, on a proper occasion, as well as the conduct of Lord Palmerston, would be canvassed.

It was subsequently arranged, that Mr. Roebuck's motion for nominating his Committee should on Friday have precedence of the orders of the day, and that then the three outgoing Ministers should make their explanations.

THE MINISTERIAL RESIGNATION—MR. ROEBUCK'S COMMITTEE.

On Friday, there was an unusually large attendance of members of the House of Commons shortly after 4 o'clock, in anticipation of the Ministerial explanations. Sir J. Graham, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Sidney Herbert took their seats on the second bench below the gangway. Mr. Cardwell sat at the end of the bench nearest the gangway behind the Treasury bench.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM opened the series of explanations, on the formal motion that the Committee on the Army before Sebastopol should take precedence of the orders of the day. Sir James vindicated the course he had taken, by at once entering upon a statement of reasons against the appointment of the committee, which his late illness had disabled him from doing before. First, he remarked upon the amended list of names for the committee.

If the Executive Government have, on the whole, made up their minds that the appointment of a committee of this vast importance in the present circumstances of the country shall be granted, I regret extremely not to find, in the list of names to be proposed, any member of her Majesty's Government included in it. I have a strong opinion, that if this inquiry is to be conducted, in circumstances so delicate, with due regard to the interests of the country, there would have been great advantage in having a minister of the Crown present on the committee, from whom, if subjects of inquiry were opened which, from his knowledge of our foreign relations, appeared to him inexpedient and dangerous, warning might be given to the committee, and some influence exercised to check inquiry when venturing upon dangerous ground. (Hear, hear.)

Further, he objected to a select committee. Would it be open, or secret?

If it is to be a secret committee, all check of public opinion which has so operated on its appointment will be withdrawn; the proceedings of the committee will not be known, and the persons implicated by the evidence will not have the opportunity of defending themselves, of preparing for the defence, of cross-examining the witness, of rebutting false accusation. Until the termination of the inquiry the tendency of the examination will be secret and unknown. If it be an open committee then the evidence will from day to day be published, and the most adverse comments of a party character will be applied to the evidence so published. Again, the most erroneous impressions, bearing hard on distant individuals, who have no power of cross-examination or of defence—the most painful imputations on the character of those filling high stations will be deduced; and altogether, during the conduct of the inquiry, there will be no appeal from any member of the committee to this House, when once the delegation has been made until the committee have presented the report. (Hear, hear.)

Such a delegation would be most dangerous. He would prefer an inquiry at the bar, for which there are some precedents, to inquiry by a committee, for which there are none. He had no wish to curtail the power of that House.

My whole political life has been spent within these walls, and the great effort of my youth and of my mature age—I hold it not to be a matter of regret—has been to have laboured to increase the democratic influence of this House. (Hear, hear.) Within its proper sphere no man more rejoices than myself at its power. It controls the appointment of the Ministers of the Crown, and, in its legislative capacity, it is equal and co-ordinate with the Crown and the House of Peers. It is greater even than the House of Peers with respect to taxation and to the supply of ways and means. Even as the grand inquest of the nation, I admit its constitutional authority, and I know no limit to that authority, except when in its exercise this House should, at an ill-advised moment, trench on the legitimate constitutional functions of the Executive. (Cheers.)

The motion for inquiry was intended as a vote of censure. But if so, how are the circumstances altered by what has occurred? If it were a vote of censure in January, surely the nomination of the committee is a vote of

censure in February; for, with the exception of Lord Panmure, all the important members of Lord Palmerston's Cabinet were members of Lord Aberdeen's Cabinet. (Cheers from the Opposition.)

Allow me in passing to observe, that on Friday last, when the head of the Government, the noble Viscount, the member for Tiverton, opened the policy of the Cabinet, he appeared to me to distinctly recognise the existence of this committee of inquiry, if passed, as a difficulty not to be lightly regarded. He volunteered to the House the functions of the executive as their committee. It will be said to me, how came you to accept office under the noble viscount, if such were your impressions with respect to this committee? (Cheers from the Opposition.) I wish to state the case with perfect frankness. (Cheers.) I had great difficulty, when the noble lord paid me the undeserved compliment of wishing me to become a member of his Government. The House will pardon me for saying that I was confined to my bed, and not in a condition to carry on a lengthened correspondence or to make many inquiries. I should tell the House there was one difficulty on which I required explanation. I wished to know from my noble friend whether there was to be any change in the foreign policy pursued by Lord Aberdeen's Cabinet, to which, as colleagues, we had given our united consent; and whether, with reference to negotiations now pending at Vienna, any alteration was contemplated in the terms which in our opinion were held consistent with the attainment of a safe and honourable peace. (Hear, hear.) I thought it my duty to satisfy myself on that single point. My noble friend, in the most frank manner, gave me an explanation on that head which was entirely satisfactory. The explanation having been satisfactory on that point, I made no further difficulty on any other subject; neither did I make any other inquiry. I frankly said, that, having been satisfied on that point, I would do my best, if he thought my services necessary, to serve him and to assist his efforts. Sir, perhaps greater caution might have been exercised with respect to this committee.

He had been of opinion until lately, that the changes made—two ministers sacrificed and unjustly loaded with obloquy, and the measures proposed—would have satisfied the country. He thought the committee unnecessary, unjust to officers, and dangerous. Taking his own department, Sir James showed one source of danger by a reference to the question of the blockade.

Suppose the committee calls for the Admiral who was charged with the execution of that duty, and asks him to go into the reasons to which I have referred. He, under the compulsion of the select committee, is forced to disclose all the reasons which led to delay. It depends on the questionable prudence of six out of eleven gentlemen whether this inquiry shall not be so prosecuted (hear, hear); and if, unhappily, the imprudence should prevail, I state positively that I am confident this inquiry will run directly into questions connected with our great and powerful ally with whom it is of the last importance nothing unfriendly should occur. (Loud cheers.) I warn the House, distinctly, that it is delegating its powers, unaccompanied by any check or control, to the chance-medley of six out of eleven gentlemen, and that it may thus involve the country in the most fatal consequences. I have said this with respect to the delay. Let me carry this one step further, and let me allude to the position of Lord Raglan, which bears distinctly on the question of the state of the army in the Crimea. I imagine that of all the difficulties with which the most splendid human talents can be tried, the successful command of an army in the presence of superior forces of the enemy, is the most severe trial—that the elements of success in that command rest mainly on an undivided authority. It has been truly said, I think, by one of the greatest commanders of antiquity, 'Id est viri et ducis non deesse Fortuna prebent, se, et oblatu casu flectere ad consilium'—that is, the operations of one undivided superior intellect. But if you command an army by the side of an ally, there must be constant communications, involving complicated considerations; there must be differences of opinion; there must be, more or less, a compromise of decision, which is almost weakness in itself; and in the direction of their relative forces there must be inequalities. (Hear, hear.)

He demurred to the doctrine that the demand for inquiry is irresistible—itself a most dangerous doctrine. He denied that he is a deserter from his colleagues. "I took my position, in common with them, on the resolution to resist this inquiry. It was resisted; the position was taken; the post was firmly occupied; I still stand to my guns, and the position is not untenable. They have abandoned the position—they have proclaimed it to be untenable, and have spiked the guns and fled away." (Loud cheers and laughter.) If Ministers of the Crown are convinced that a course is dangerous, it is their duty to stand in the breach and resist; and that unpopular and painful duty it was his to perform. Nothing can be more dishonourable than to assent to measures, adopted by the majority of your colleagues, which you believe to be dangerous, especially when you feel that you have not the confidence of Parliament. There were indications, not to be mistaken, that the new administration constructed by Lord Palmerston did not really possess the confidence of the House, in a greater degree than that administration which only a few weeks since retired. (Vehement cheering.) Sir James declined to say much about the future. "Honied words of parting with colleagues are almost always nauseous, generally delusive, and, like lovers' vows in similar respects, always unavailing and laughed to scorn." But with strong friendly feelings towards them, he should generally support them.

I shall still religiously abstain from anything that can partake of a factious opposition. (Renewed Cheers.) I shall hope to give a cordial support generally to the measures of the Government. I will make no further professions, but, instead of professions, I will endeavour to prove by my conduct that with me the safety of the State, in the midst of a great emergency, is paramount to every other consideration, and I can only now thank the House cordially for the patience with which they have listened to the expression of opinions, shared, I believe, only by a small minority. (The right hon. baronet resumed his seat amid general applause.)

Mr. BRIGHT said he was one of a majority of the House who looked upon our present position as one

of more than ordinary gravity, and he regretted the secession of the members who had withdrawn from the Government, though he thought no one could have listened to the speech of Sir J. GRAHAM without being convinced that he and his retiring colleagues had been moved to the course they had taken by deliberate judgment and upon honest grounds. He regretted their secession, however, because he did not like to see the Government of Lord PALMERSTON overthrown. For a month there had been a chaos in the region of administration; nothing could be more embarrassing and humiliating to this country, and the sentiment was not confined to these islands.

We are now in a peculiar position with regard to that war; for if I am not mistaken at this very moment terms have been agreed upon—agreed upon by the Cabinet of Lord Aberdeen; consented to by the noble lord the member for Tiverton when he was in that Cabinet; and ratified and confirmed by him upon the formation of his own Government, and that those terms are now specifically known and understood. Those terms consist of four propositions, which I shall neither describe nor discuss, because they are known to the House; but three of them are not matters of dispute, and, with regard to the other, I think that the noble lord the member for the city of London stated, upon a recent occasion, that it was involved in these terms—that the preponderant power of Russia in the Black Sea should cease, and that Russia had accepted it with that interpretation. Therefore, whatever difference arises is merely as to the mode in which that "preponderant power" shall be understood or made to cease. Now, there are gentlemen not far from me—there are men who write in the public press (cheers and laughter from the Opposition)—I hope hon. gentlemen do not understand that I am alluding to any one here; I mean persons out of doors—the press generally. I believe that most men who are able to do it have written occasionally for the public press. Well, I say that there are gentlemen in this House, that there are writers for the public press, that there are thousands of persons in the united kingdom at this moment—and I learn with astonishment and dismay there are persons even in that grave assembly which we are not allowed to specify by a name in this House—who have entertained dreams—impracticable theories—expectations of vast European and Asiatic changes, of revived nationalities, and of a new map of Europe, if not of the world, as a result or an object of this war. And it is from those gentlemen that we hear continually addressed to the noble lord the member for Tiverton terms which I cannot well understand. They call upon him to act, to carry on the war with vigour, and to prosecute enterprises which neither his Government nor any other Government has ever seriously entertained; but I would appeal to those gentlemen whether it does not become us—regarding the true interests and the true honour of the country—if our Government have offered terms of peace to Russia, not to draw back from those terms (hear, hear), not to cause any unnecessary delay, not to adopt any subterfuge to prevent those terms being accepted, not to attempt shuffles of any kind, not to endeavour to insist upon harder terms, and thus make the approach of peace even still more distant than it is at present? (Hear, hear.)

He had no wish that Lord Palmerston's Government should be overthrown. The noble viscount and Lord John Russell were more responsible for the war than any of our public men, and both were now in a position, backed by public confidence, to put a stop to the troubles they were now enduring. As Lord John Russell was acquainted with the whole question from beginning to end, he entertained a hope that the result of that mission to Vienna would be to bring about a peace, to restore this country by extricating it from some of those difficulties inseparable from a state of war. (Hear, hear.)

I should like to ask the noble lord at the head of the Government—although I am not sure if he will feel that he can or ought to answer the question—whether the noble lord the member for London has power, after discussions have commenced, and as soon as there shall be established good grounds for believing that the negotiations for peace will prove successful, to enter into any armistice? ("No! no!" and "Hear, hear.") I know not, Sir, who it is that says "No, no!" but I should like to see any man get up and say that the destruction of 200,000 human lives lost on all sides during the course of this unhappy contest is not a sufficient sacrifice. You are not pretending to conquer territory—you are not pretending to hold fortified or unfortified towns; you have offered terms of peace which, as I understand them, I do not say are not moderate; and breathes there a man in this house or in this country whose appetite for blood is so insatiable that, even when terms of peace have been offered and accepted, he pines for that assault in which Russian, Turk, French, and English, as sure as one man dies, 20,000 corpses will strew the streets of Sebastopol? I am not now complaining of the war—I am not now complaining of the terms of peace, nor, indeed, of anything that has been done—but I wish to suggest to this House what I believe thousands, even tens of thousands of the most educated and of the most Christian portion of the people of this country are feeling upon this subject, although, indeed, in the midst of a certain clamour in the country, they do not give public expression to their feelings. Your country is not in an advantageous state at this moment; from one end of the kingdom to the other there is a general collapse of industry. (Hear, hear.) Those members of this House not intimately acquainted with the trade and commerce of the country do not fully comprehend our position as to the diminution of employment and the lessening of wages. An increase in the cost of living is finding its way to the homes and hearths of a vast number of the labouring population. At the same time there is growing up a bitter and angry feeling against that class which has for a long period conducted the public affairs of this country. I like political changes when such changes are made to be the result, not of passion, but of deliberation and reason. Changes so made are safe, but changes made under the influence of violent exaggeration, or of the violent passions of a public meeting, are not changes usually approved by this House or advantageous to the country. (Hear, hear.)

If the present First Minister endeavoured honestly and frankly to terminate this war by negotiation, no vote of his should be given to shake his power or to change his position.

The noble lord, before I was born, sat upon the Treasury

bench, and he has devoted his life to the services of his country. He is no longer young, and his life has extended almost to the term allotted to man. I would ask, I would entreat the noble lord to take a course which, when he looks back upon his whole political career—whatever he may therein find to be pleased with, whatever to regret—cannot but be a source of gratification. By adopting that course he would have the satisfaction of reflecting that having obtained the laudable object of his ambition—having become the foremost subject of the Crown, the dispenser of, it may be, the destinies of this country and the presiding genius in her councils—he had achieved a still higher and nobler ambition; that over Europe he had returned the sword to the scabbard—that at his word torrents of blood had ceased to flow—that he had restored tranquillity to Europe, and saved this country from the indescribable calamities of war. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT, suffering from physical inability, took the same ground as Sir James Graham. Admitting the right of the House of Commons to institute the inquiry, he avowed his readiness to go before any committee—there is nothing which he is afraid to place before the light of day. But he objected to the committee, because it must endanger our alliance; could not inquire into the causes of calamities; would be a "fraud," a "delusion," an "immense sham." He was told that the motion was "irresistible"; but he had seen resistance made to feelings quite as strong and quite as universal as that which now operated on the House. He had seen the House, after reasons gravely and fully stated, rescind a vote at the bidding of Sir Robert Peel. Only two years ago, he had seen the eloquence of one man induce the House to reverse its conclusion that we could have none but a graduated income-tax in this country. Our want is a strong Government. He admitted the late Government had not the confidence of the House of Commons.

It had a great deal of professed support. (Hear.) Some declared that they gave it political support; a few supported it because they believed it inclined to peace; others, again, because they fancied that under its auspices we should have war at any price; and then there was, as from hon. gentlemen opposite, what we may call a vituperative support. (Laughter.) But a genuine support given to the Government, a support founded upon the single object of the common welfare, is a thing which in this House, at the present moment, does not seem to exist. Well, for my part, under these circumstances, not having succeeded in my humble capacity in conciliating any the smallest share of support, I felt myself willing to go again into the ranks and attempt to give the Government a support not critical nor vituperative (hear), but a support given to the executive because I think it is necessary it should be supported (hear), and with the single object in view of giving stability to the Government and strength to the country in a moment of great difficulty, and of seeking the promotion of the public welfare. (Cheers.) You want have a strong Government by having in it strong men who take a weak course. (Cheers from the Opposition.) You must have strong men taking a strong course. (Hear, hear.) They must not at the first moment throw down the reins, and act contrary to the opinions which they strongly expressed a fortnight ago, because the House at that moment happen to demand it. (Hear.) The Government, to be a strong Government, must be something more than the mere reflex of popular opinions. It must not only be composed of strong men, but it must act strongly.

He would not be a party to what he knew to be wrong because he could not prevent other men from doing it. It was mere Parliamentary "red-tapism" to pretend that the Committee could accomplish what it professed to be sought.

Mr. GASKELL contended that the disasters warranted inquiry. It had been said that these things should be left to the executive. Why, the complaint of the country was, that they had been left to the executive. (Loud cheers.) They had resolved, by an overwhelming majority, that they would institute an inquiry. It was too much, therefore, that three Ministers should thereupon abandon their posts and quit the service of their Sovereign, because the noble lord at the head of the Government was not so imprudent—he had almost said, not so insane—as to run counter to the deliberate opinion and determination of the people. (Cheers.) As long as they enjoyed free institutions, unless it was the wish of the House to become a byword of reproach to the world, they would never consent to such an abandonment of duty and to such an abnegation of principle as those right hon. gentlemen had recommended. (Cheers.)

Mr. DRUMMOND had originally supported the motion for inquiry and should continue to do so. He had not supported it in a non-natural sense, and he saw no reason for retraction. Ministers came down and gave the House no information. The House itself knew nothing, except that on every occasion they had been asked to do so they had voted very large sums of money and large numbers of men. It was one of the most unheard-of things that these gentlemen, the privy councillors of the Crown, should not seem to be aware of the real condition to which they had brought the country. At this moment, when negotiations, when delay was bringing death to our wretched army, and when a strong Government was needed, it was scandalous for men to run away from their places like servants when a house was on fire; when John would not come to help till Bill began, and so the house was burnt. They had heard of the farce of "High Life Below Stairs," but this was the tragedy of Low Life Above Stairs. (Hear, hear, and a laugh.) There had been destroyed an enormous army, which had brought on this country the mockeries of Europe, and criticism in the German papers on our military skill, and at that very time the Crown was advised to give the highest mark of military skill to the head of that Government—(hear, hear)—as if in mockery and insult of the votes of that house, in contempt of the universal feeling of the country, and in defiance of the sense of the whole of Europe. He did not deny that much danger was to be apprehended from the appointment of this committee. (Hear, hear.) But were they to be scared by the aspect of danger? The proper way was to teach them how to avoid it. The right hon.

gentleman (Mr. Herbert) was afraid that the inquiry would be a sham. He (Mr. Drummond) would promise him that it should be no sham—(hear, hear);—he need not be concerned on that score. Government in dealing with this committee raised a few questions which they themselves knew were never meant to be put,—which they knew would never be gone into at all,—and then they asked, "Will you trust these eleven men to go into such questions?" It is not intended to touch upon these matters at all; but perhaps the committee would be able to find out how it was that these very eminent statesmen at the end of nine months were beginning to find out, at least, that something like a waggon train was wanted, when they made the waggons they forgot the harness. (Laughter and cheers.) Why, there was not a country booby throughout all England who, when he went to buy a cart, did not know it was also necessary to provide the harness and horses. (Cheers.)

Lord SEYMOUR [presumptively designated by several Members as Chairman of the Committee] believed that such an inquiry would be fraught with inconvenience to the public service, embarrassing to the next campaign, and dangerous to our alliance; but, on the advice of Mr. Eliot, he had suffered his name to be put on the Committee by Government. All the military departments would be engaged in preparations for the spring campaign; but the inquiry must be strict and searching, and they must have the officers of those departments before them. Those officials would say, "We did all in our power, but the error arose in the Crimea"; and then charges would be hanging over officers there, for three months. There are great objections to a Secret Committee; but if it were public, the whole accusations would be published in the newspapers the next day, unanswered, and inflicting injustice. He believed, however, that the public could be satisfied on the question how the mismanagement in details had happened, without entering on matters which it would be dangerous to deal with.

Mr. LOWE also objected to the inquiry, remarking upon the difficulties that might arise in the course of the investigation with regard to our French allies; and the injustice it might inflict upon individual officers in our own army. It was very good, no doubt, to inquire into public abuses and to apply remedies to them, but there were other matters which ought sometimes to be looked to. *Salus populi lex suprema* was to be regarded, but in this case they must also look at their alliance with France, the negotiations they were entering into, their position in Europe, and they must also consider the absolute importance—a month before the campaign was to open anew—of the whole attention of every department being exclusively devoted to it without let or hindrance, and of being unanimous in the duties which they had to execute. Let the House weigh these considerations, and look also at the position of the noble lord at the head of the War Department. What were his labours? Lord Panmure had taken a department that was newly founded in June last, and before sufficient time had elapsed for this department to be in an efficient state, on the top of it was placed, in December, the Commissariat, taken from the Treasury, and then came the Ministerial crisis, and on the top of all this came the department of the Secretary at War. This was like placing Ossa on Olympus, and Pelion, with all its woods, on that. He believed that these departments were still in great confusion, and that there were great practical difficulties in connexion with them, with which not only the Minister of War but the country would have to deal before they could make these departments efficient to carry on the war; and, indeed, he believed, before they could be made fit working instruments, these departments must be taken to pieces and put together again. Then there were those who took exception to the administration of the army, which had remained intact for years, and expected great reforms to be carried on, while at the same time the war at its most critical period was also to proceed with vigour. All this was expected; it was a labour superhuman, and beyond the powers of living man; and what would be the result when, into all the confusion arising from this additional amount of labour and the amalgamation of offices, was introduced the distraction that would be furnished by this Parliamentary investigation, ranging over all the departments? (Hear, hear.)

General PREL took up a similar position to that of Lord Seymour. As an intended member of the committee, he remarked upon the necessity of rendering its proceedings strictly impartial.

Mr. LAING was of opinion that if peace could be obtained by the acceptance of the terms agreed to by this Government and our allies, the war should be put an end to. But with regard to the other question, the state of our naval and military establishments, the disclosures in the late campaign were appalling, showing that there was something radically wrong. It was clear that the money which we had been spending during the last 30 years as a sort of assurance against such dangers had been absolutely thrown away—we had been insuring, in fact, in an insolvent company. The noble and generous pride of England was cut to the quick by the figure we had made in this war. (Hear, hear.) While the practical men of the age—the countrymen and followers of Arkwright, Watt, and Stephenson—had been straining every nerve to raise the country higher than she had ever stood before, and while they were flattering themselves they had succeeded, the veil was suddenly rent from their eyes, and they found that in this conflict, entered into with all the resources of the nation and the unanimous support of Parliament and the people, England actually went for less than a single second-rate Power, like Sardinia, probably might when she descended into the arena. It was not from any want of valour in our soldiers that these failures had occurred (hear, hear); they had never fought better, and, as it appeared, the regimental officers had never behaved better; but it was that the whole administration of the army was

conducted with a total disregard of the common sense principles which were held to be essential to the success of every private undertaking.

There were hundreds of men, he believed, in the City of London, who would be ready to-morrow to contract to supply the army with food and clothing, and who would perform the service, too, with regularity and despatch. The whole transport service in the Crimea was an operation of far less magnitude than his hon. friend the member for Tynemouth (Mr. Lindsay) was accustomed to deal with every day in the ordinary course of his business. (Hear.) Then, for the land transport service, were there no Chaplins and Hornes, no Pickfords in the country, whose special business it was to do these things? Were there not, too, in this country a class of men who had arisen out of the extension of our railway system—the great contractors—whose business it was to do the very things that were wanted to be done, and were they not men who managed to keep themselves out of the *Gazette* by the exercise of those administrative abilities from the want of which the present dead lock had arisen? (Hear.) Were there no Petos, no Brasscys—men who could make a road, or half-a-dozen roads, if they were wanted, between the camp and Balaklava, carry up the huts, and, in fact, do the very things which the military authorities had failed in doing? Now, indeed, they had sent out some “navvies,” but not half enough for the work, and some three months too late. (Hear, hear.)

What was wanted to reform our army was one man, to concentrate in his own hands, as in other countries, the whole power and responsibility. In private concerns, merit was the mainspring; whereas the effect of our military system was to shut out merit. England had reformed its commercial policy; it should now reform its army. For his own part, he desired no more democratic reforms than those which had been adopted in the Sardinian army, of which a very interesting account had recently been published. He and those members of that House who were prepared to support the Government of the noble member for Tiverton were most anxious to see the noble lord undertake these reforms, and obtain the credit of them, rather than allow them to be effected by others whose tendencies might be more democratic.

Sir J. PAKINGTON thought it was the duty of the House to grant an inquiry. If he was called, he said, to name the members of the late Government whom he thought most culpable, he should not name the Duke of Newcastle, but he would name Lord J. Russell and Lord Palmerston. He thought the position of the latter most extraordinary. He (Sir John) would consent to be a member of the committee on two conditions—one, that the inquiry should be complete and searching; the other, that as regarded the conduct of the departments to be made the subject of inquiry, it should begin at the beginning.

Mr. S. WORTLEY regretted that Lord Palmerston had so readily yielded to the general demand for inquiry.

Mr. WALFORD contended that there was authority for the proposed inquiry, and cited a variety of precedents in its favour.

Mr. GLADSTONE went over the same ground as Sir James Graham, with a more argumentative development of those reasons, practical and constitutional, against the appointment of the Committee, that had induced him to retire when the Cabinet took the “fatal choice” of granting the inquiry. But there were several important points in addition. He referred to the very inaccurate accounts of the communications that had passed when Lord Derby was endeavouring to form a Government, and particularly to one by Mr. Disraeli, so varying from what he had understood, that he was to this day in ignorance what “offer” had been made to him. Mr. Gladstone read the letter that he wrote on that occasion, which was the beginning and the end of his communication with Lord Derby.

“My dear Lord Derby—Lord Palmerston has communicated to me the wish you have been so good as to express, that, in common with him and with Mr. S. Herbert, I should become part of the Administration which you have been charged by the Queen to form. I also learn from him that he is not of opinion that he could himself render you useful service in that Administration, but that he would have every disposition to give you the best support in his power; and he has just left me with the announcement of his intention to write to you an answer to this effect.”

[I may, perhaps, here interpolate an explanation, that my noble friend did not, at the moment when he made the announcement to me of Lord Derby's wish, inform me that he did not think that he himself could accept the offer made to him. It was at a later period, when my noble friend made some further communications to me, that he expressed to me that opinion. My letter proceeded thus]—

I think it only remains to me to reply in similar terms. Any Government, owing its origin to the late vote of the House of Commons, and honestly endeavouring to do its duty, must have peculiar claims to support in connexion with the great national interests involved in the question of war and peace. On public grounds, I am disposed to believe that the formation of a Government from among your own political connections would offer many facilities at this moment, which other alternatives within view would not present; and, unless when my opinions might not have me a choice, it would be my sincere desire to offer to an Administration, so constructed under you, an independent Parliamentary support.

Having no differences with Lord Palmerston, but a warm and high regard for him, whatever he might think of the Parliamentary prospects of his Cabinet, he should have felt wanting in duty to his country if he had not accepted his proposals. It was acute suffering to him to be separated from Lord Aberdeen: in office it was difficult for Mr. Gladstone to defend his friend from attack, but now that he was out of office he was free to express his opinion.

Lord Aberdeen has been dismissed by a blow darkly aimed from an official hand. . . . I believe him to be a man who has been much misunderstood. Twenty years have elapsed since I heard Lord Aberdeen denounced in this House by one of the most honest statesmen of his day as a person holding principles that made him the enemy of mankind. Such was the idea that men could entertain of Lord Aberdeen. I am unwilling to name the individual who uttered those words, but I am quite sure he has long since deeply regretted the attack he then made on Lord Aberdeen. (Hear, hear.) But after that Lord Aberdeen

lived to become the trusted colleague, the admired colleague, the eulogized colleague of Sir Robert Peel, his faithful ally, and the first to encourage him in every measure that had for its object the benefit of the people. (Cheers.) Now, again, Lord Aberdeen has fallen from his former friends; but as that, I will not call it calumny, but error of twenty years ago was dispelled, so, you may rely upon it, these prejudices will also be dissipated, and the fame of that man, not so much on account of the high office he has held, as from his elevated and admirable character, will not only live, but his name, I venture to say, will be enshrined in the grateful recollection of his country. (An ironical cheer.)

He had quitted the Government of Lord Palmerston because, in a choice of difficulties, he felt the selection made to be a fatal one. He read the objections he had offered to the motion on the 29th of January, and asked whether it was wonderful that a person who had so argued should resign his office rather than be a party to a measure he had so denounced? The question, he observed, was twofold—it related to inquiry into the state of the army in the Crimea, and into the conduct of the Government departments. He should be prepared to submit to the former, but the larger and more serious question was, whether a committee should be appointed to investigate the state of the army in the Crimea? and he denied that the House would act constitutionally by entering upon such an investigation pending a great military operation. He and his friends were not going to fight the battle against inquiry, for they said, “Give us the best and most searching inquiry; but do not, under the form of an inquiry, give us that which may prove an imposture or a mistake, or probably both.” (Cheers.) A committee of punishment it was not intended to be—was it to be a committee of remedies? This was not the most effectual or most expeditious form of remedy. Then what was it?

The real powers of this committee are now coming out. It is not to be a committee of punishment, it is not to be a committee of remedy. Then what is it? It is a committee of Government. (Cheers.) A committee too, which takes out of the hands of the executive, the highest, the most important, and the most delicate of its functions. (Cheers.) I am convinced that an inquiry such as is proposed by a committee of this House is incompatible with real confidence on the part of Parliament in those who hold executive office, and entirely incompatible with the credit and authority which ought, under all circumstances, to belong to the Ministers of the Crown, whatever party or political creed they may possess. (Cheers.)

Mr. GLADSTONE then referred to a personal matter affecting himself and colleagues who resigned with him:—

I do not plead guilty to the charge of inconsiderateness. I never doubted that my noble friend at the head of the Government would and must entertain the same opinions with respect to the committee which he entertained when he first besought the House in earnest language not to grant it (hear, and a laugh), and my noble friend is aware that, before my acceptance of office under his Government was announced to the world, I had the satisfaction of conversing with him on the subject of this committee, in which conversation he acquainted me of his continued opinion that the opposition of Government ought to be offered to its appointment. (Renewed cries of “Hear,” and laughter.) This can be no secret, because the right hon. gentlemen opposite, and indeed, I might say, the whole world, must have observed that this, and this only, was the meaning of a portion of the speech delivered by my noble friend, when he addressed the House after the formation of his Government. (Hear, hear.)

Lord PALMERSTON said he should not utter a word of criticism upon the course which his late colleagues had thought it their duty to pursue, persuaded that they had acted upon a sincere and honest conviction. He had from the first objected to this committee, and his objections in some degree still remained; but it was impossible not to see that the great majority which had affirmed the motion had acted upon two distinct motives. One portion thought an inquiry ought to take place; but another supported the motion because they considered it to be a vote of no confidence in the Government. The country took up the question in the former sense; it required inquiry, and that opinion of the country reacted upon the House. He found himself, therefore, in this position—that he could not persuade the House to rescind its vote or postpone the committee, although he had hoped that, when he had stated the changes and inquiries he proposed to make the House would have consented to defer it.

But I certainly never would have undertaken the task of forming a Government—nor, I am sure, would my noble and right hon. friends have joined me in undertaking it—if we had intended to stake the continuance of our exertions upon the question whether this House would adhere to, or would withdraw from, its own vote (hear), and we should have deemed it unworthy of us, and only trifling with the Sovereign and the country, if we had predetermined in our own minds to abandon our posts if the House should refuse to rescind its resolution. No doubt there may be inconveniences and evils attending this inquiry, but I think it would be a greater evil that this country should, in consequence of personal differences, and by reason of the fragmentary division of parties, present to the world the lamentable spectacle of inability, for a month or six weeks, to find any set of public men who could offer themselves to the country as a Government and undertake the conduct of public affairs. (Hear, hear.) I think, therefore, that the course which we followed was the one that it was our duty to pursue (hear, hear), and that, if we had abandoned our posts in such an emergency, if we had set our opinions against the deliberate judgment of the nation, if we had undertaken the vain task of resisting the unanimous sentiment, I may say, of the entire people of this country, by attempting to prevent the inquiry, we should have been wanting in the performance of our duty. (Hear.) I have been asked by the hon. member for Manchester whether we intend to stand by the propositions for peace which have been settled by the Cabinet which existed before the House came to its vote for an inquiry, and which have since been concurred in by the Cabinet as it has been recently reconstituted. Sir, most undoubtedly we do abide by those propositions (hear, hear);

most unquestionably the instructions under which my noble friend (Lord J. Russell) is now proceeding to Vienna are founded upon the resolutions to which my right hon. friends who have retired from this bench were parties; and when we are asked whether we are prepared to negotiate in good faith, my answer is, that we are prepared to negotiate in good faith, and that if we were not so prepared we should not only be unworthy of holding the offices we fill, but unfit to be members of this great assembly. (Hear, hear.) We are as anxious as any men can be to be enabled upon terms consistent with the future safety of Europe, and with the attainment of those objects for which the war was begun, to put an end to the conflict by an honourable treaty of peace. But, I think, if by an over-eager desire for peace we were to conclude what would more properly be characterized as but an insincere and hollow truce—if we were to consent to terms which would leave in existence, in all its former amplitude, the same source of danger by which we were compelled to embark on this arduous struggle, instead of deserving the thanks of the country we should deserve its severest censure, because we should have betrayed the trust imposed upon us, and for a temporary object have laid the foundation for great future calamities. (Hear, hear.)

If they failed in obtaining a peace consistent with the security of Europe, it would be their duty to prosecute the war with a vigour necessary to bring it to a successful termination, and he was convinced that they would not appeal in vain to the generous support of Parliament.

Mr. DISRAELI observed, that it would have been satisfactory to the House if Lord PALMERSTON could have assured the country that a Government was in existence. The noble lord says, “So long as we possess the confidence of the House and the country we intend to do our duty to her Majesty and to retain our places.” (Laughter.) But what we want to know is, who are “we.” (Loud laughter.) The noble Lord had, he said, omitted to answer the speeches of his late colleagues, and his own reasons were not only unsatisfactory, but inconsistent, for no longer opposing a committee to which he formerly objected in the strongest language.

The noble lord spoke and voted against the committee, he formed his Cabinet on the basis of opposition to it, and before a week has passed away we find the noble lord rising in his place prepared to grant the committee, and stating the existence of his Government upon it, but not urging one single reason in favour of its appointment. After having listened for hours to arguments which I think are answerable, to the quotation of precedents which I believe may be grappled with, to discussions which, at least, I should have supposed the leader of the House of Commons would have condescended to meet, the noble lord changes his own opinion, accepts an opinion which a short time ago he declared to be unconstitutional, and makes it the basis of his Government. And this is the man whose firmness, consistency, and energy, are to save the country! (Loud cheers.)

He must say that, from the experience of the first week of the noble lord's career, and the speeches they had heard to-night, his hopes of his triumph for the future were less glowing than he in the first instance, hoped they might have been. He replied to the speech of Mr. GLADSTONE, contending that in a case like the present, if there was no precedent, it was the duty of the House to make one. If Lord John Russell had gone to Vienna to be the promoter of peace with a foregone conclusion in the favour of war, then was it, he thought, not satisfactory prospect for the country. (Hear.) He could therefore only hope that his instructions from the First Minister of the Crown had been couched in a franker spirit, and expressed in more intelligible language, than the conditions, which were to be the basis of his Government. (Cheers.)

Sir G. GRAY denied that Lord PALMERSTON had, as repeatedly assumed by Mr. DISRAELI, founded his Government upon the basis of a resistance to this vote. After the ineffectual resistance to it of Lord ALBANY's Government, he had acquiesced in the decision of Lord PALMERSTON's Cabinet, that, under circumstances of unprecedented difficulty, it was their duty to the country to withdraw from any further opposition to the appointment of a committee. The basis of the present Government was founded upon the vigorous prosecution of the war, with the view of obtaining at the earliest period a just, safe, and honourable peace.

After a few words from Mr. MUNTZ, the motion was agreed to, and the House proceeded to the nomination of the committee, which produced a discussion, in the course of which Lord PALMERSTON stated that it was not his intention to propose any limitation to the committee, and Mr. ROXBURGH observed that the terms of his motion sufficiently defined its limits. Two divisions took place upon the names of Mr. BRAMSTON (101 to 80) and Mr. J. BALL, (98 to 62) both of which were retained.

The House adjourned at a quarter-past 2 o'clock until Monday.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE WAR.

Replying to Mr. BERSFORD on Thursday, Mr. F. PEEL stated that arrangements were in progress for the better organisation of the hospital service attached to the army in the East.

In reply to Mr. WARNER, Lord PALMERSTON said that the commissioners who have been sent to the seat of war, possessed full power to alter any arrangements which they might deem defective; to make reports both to the Commander of the Forces and to the Government at home, with a view to personal as well as other arrangements, and to carry into effect any changes in the arrangements which they might think necessary.

On the order for going into committee on the Army Service Act Amendment Bill, Mr. M. GIBSON, referring to some words attributed to Lord Panmure in the other House, inquired whether compulsion was contemplated in recruiting the army. Lord PALMERSTON replied that the only form of compulsion in the regular army was the bounty offered. As to the Militia, there was a power by law of resorting to the ballot; but he should be loth by so doing to check that voluntary

spirit so generally displayed by the people of this country. He was sure that the words of Lord Palmerston could not refer to the army.

On Friday, Lord Palmerston stated, in order to explain away a false impression which existed with respect to the return of Sir John Burgoyne from the Crimea, that no stigma attached to that gallant officer. Sir John Burgoyne simply returned to resume his post of Inspector-General of Fortifications, and had been relieved by General Jones, whose comparative youth rendered him better fitted to bear the rigours of a winter campaign. The Marquis of Lansdown was extremely glad to hear this explanation, and seized the opportunity to bear testimony to the eminent services of Sir John Burgoyne.

Mr. H. DRUMMOND asked if the Government intended making the army of the East India Company a royal army. (Hear.) Lord PALMERSTON said the Government had no such intention.

On the motion for going into committee of supply on Monday, Mr. F. FRANKLIN called attention to the gallantry displayed by Sergeant Sullivan in successive engagements in the Crimea, and inquired why the deserts of that brave soldier had not been recognised by the award of a commission? Lord PALMERSTON remarked that a certain number of commissions had been placed at the disposal of Lord Raglan, for the reward of distinguished merit among the non-commissioned officers, but that the Government had no intention of interfering with his selection of the persons who were to be so recompensed.

Mr. NEWDEGATE inquired whether clothing for the troops in the Crimea suited for the spring and summer months was being prepared. Mr. F. PEEL replied that a second suit of clothes, which, under the ordinary regulations would have been furnished at the commencement of the financial year, viz., in April next, had already been issued. Every soldier now serving in the Crimea has received his second suit during the current financial year. With regard to the issue of the warm weather clothing, perhaps the hon. gentleman would be satisfied with his (Mr. Peel's) assurance that every provision would henceforth be made by the Government for clothing the troops in a manner suited to the season. (Hear, hear.)

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

On the order of the day for going into a Committee of Supply on Monday,

Mr. W. LINDSAY observed, that when at Paris he had paid a visit to the office of the Minister of War, and was surprised at the Minister's minute knowledge of details. The system was very simple, and he explained its principal features, asking why the Government of this country could not adopt a similar system, instead of the system, or no system, now acted upon, which had inspired him, he said, with feelings of shame. With respect to the transport service, the Government were employing no less than 350,000 tons of shipping for the service of 25,000 men—a quantity sufficient to supply not only the remnant of our own army, but that of France. The remedy proposed was a Transport Board; but boards were only expedients for shifting responsibility from one man to another. The country would not grudge any money for the service of the war, if properly applied; but he did not think that money was properly applied.

A discussion ensued, in which many inquiries were made and many topics were ventilated relating to the details of the war. In the course of it Admiral Berkeley flatly contradicted the statement of Mr. Lindsay as to the amount of tonnage employed in the service of the army in the Crimea, observing that the ships were employed, not for the exclusive service of the British army, but for that of the French and Turkish armies.

The House then went into Committee of Supply upon the remaining Army Estimates, and certain votes were agreed to after some interesting discussion. These votes were, £314,984 for the charge of general staff officers and officers of the hospitals serving with her Majesty's forces at home and abroad; £151,108 for the allowances and contingent expenses of the offices connected with the War Department; £17,795 Royal Military College; £23,267 Royal Hibernian Military College; £88,000 for the Volunteer Corps; £3,813,383 for the embodied militia; and £22,000, as rewards for distinguished services to officers, and allowances to sergeants as rewards for distinguished and meritorious services.

In the course of the conversation which ensued, Major Reid denounced the "iniquities" of the Horse Guards. Lord Hotham and others called for a reform of the staff. Mr. G. Dundas made a very interesting statement of what he saw at Balaklava during a recent visit, which confirmed the reports published in the daily papers. Mr. Layard complained of the treatment of Colonel Chesney and of the non-promotion of Lieutenant-Colonel Dixon. Lord Palmerston said that there was no intention of having recourse to the ballot in making up the militia regiments, the Government feeling confident that there would be no difficulty in procuring the requisite number of men without. In the course of some discussion respecting Scutari, Mr. STAFFORD, who has recently visited the East, said he was willing to pair off with Mr. Sidney Herbert for the remainder of the session, and go to the East, so that the right hon. gentleman might examine matters with his own eyes. Mr. OTWAY thought there was no case to be found in history in which an officer was treated so unjustly as Lord Raglan had been. (Hear, hear.) Up to that moment Lord Raglan had never been heard in his own defence.

In a Committee of Ways and Means, on the motion of Mr. J. Wilson, the sum of £17,183,000 was ordered to be raised by Exchequer-bills for the service of the year 1855.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Major REED has given notice that unless prevented by another political crisis, he shall move for a select

committee to inquire into the system of promotion in the army, on the 8th of March next.

Mr. F. PEEL, in answer to Sir F. Baring, said he had no objection to lay on the table a copy of the letter written by the Duke of Newcastle to the editors of the daily papers, requesting them not to publish information in their journals which might be useful to Russia. He would consider whether it would be expedient to produce the replies to these letters.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, in reply to an inquiry from the Earl of Roden, Earl Granville stated, that it is the intention of her Majesty's Government, and the decision had been come to a fortnight ago, to advise her Majesty to appoint a day of national humiliation. Lord Campbell remarked, that our condition as a nation is most humiliating, not only in regard to what has taken place abroad, but, he was grieved to add, in regard also to what had occurred at home.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, Lord PALMERSTON moved for the issue of a new writ for the Montrose District of Burghs, in the room of the late Mr. Hume, and took occasion to pass a high eulogium on the eminent talents and services of the deceased. Sir J. WALMSLEY and Mr. BROWNE added a tribute of regret and admiration for their late distinguished colleague in that House.

On the motion of Mr. HATTEY, new writs were ordered to issue for the City of London, the county of Forfar, and the boroughs of Radnor and Halifax, to supply the vacancies caused by the acceptance of office by the late representatives—Lord J. Russell having been appointed Colonial Secretary; Lord Duncan, Lord of the Treasury; Sir G. O. Lewis, Chancellor of the Exchequer; and Sir C. Wood, First Lord of the Admiralty.

Replying to Sir J. PAKINGTON, Lord PALMERSTON stated, that in the absence of Lord J. Russell the necessary business of the colonial department would be provided for by his right hon. friend (Sir G. Grey) who was recently Secretary for the Colonies. He had, however, no reason to apprehend that the noble lord would be long detained from his official duties.

An election committee to inquire into the return of Messrs. Laurie and Guinness for Barnstable, has been sitting for the last few days, but the evidence thus far has not been important.

On Monday, the General Committee of Elections, the Hon. Mr. Walpole in the chair, appointed the following hon. members to try the merits of the Cambridge election petition:—Mr. Robert Ingham (chairman), Mr. J. H. Phillips, Lord Robert Grosvenor, Mr. J. M. Gaskell, and Mr. M. Wyvill.

In reply to a question put by Mr. Malins respecting the bill brought in for amending the law of partnership, Mr. Cardwell had no hesitation in saying that should the department of the Government with which he had recently been connected decline to proceed with the measure, he would himself bring it forward.

The committee on the army before Sebastopol nominated on Friday, met on Monday for the first time, to choose a chairman and consider the course of their proceeding. Mr. Roebuck was unanimously chosen chairman, the other members being Mr. Drummond, Sir J. Pakington, Colonel Lindsay, Mr. Layard, Mr. Ellice, Lord Seymour, Sir George Lewis, General Peel, Mr. Bramston, and Mr. J. Ball. The question as to whether the proceedings of the committee are to be open through the instrumentality of the press to the public, as is now customary in all our courts and other tribunals, is to engage the attention of the committee at their next sitting.

In the House of Lords on Monday, Lord GRANVILLE, in reply to Lord WESTMATH, stated, that Earl St. Germans had not resigned the Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland, but it was true Mr. Horsman had accepted the post of Secretary for Ireland.

In reply to Mr. WALPOLE, Lord PALMERSTON said that Lord John Russell's Education Bill would for the present be postponed.

THE WAR.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

The following despatch from Field-Marshal Lord Raglan was published in Friday night's *Gazette*:—

Before Sebastopol, Feb. 10.

My Lord Duke,—I have nothing material or important to report to your grace since I addressed you on the 6th.

There was rain yesterday and the day before, and in the course of last night there was a considerable fall of snow, which remains on the ground; but it does not freeze, and the country is again saturated with wet.

It is reported from the front that great activity prevails in the town and harbour of Sebastopol.

Large convoys of apparently sick men were observed to be moving out of the place, and numerous carts, with one horse, to be coming in.

The enemy appear to be breaking up hulks in the Arsenal Creek, and to be using the materials for platforms and chevaux de frise at the battery "du Mat."

We are proceeding with the armament of the works on the right.

The health of the troops continues to improve in some slight degree. They are amply supplied with warm clothing and with provisions.

Forage is our only want, and this arises chiefly from the Commissary-General not receiving from England the supplies of hay upon which he has reckoned.

I enclose the return of casualties on the 8th inst.

I have, &c. RAGLAN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c.

The casualties are four rank and file wounded.

We learn from St. Petersburg, that under date of the 12th inst., Prince Menschikoff had sent the following despatch to his Government:—

On the 30th we succeeded in discovering subterranean works of the French leading towards the fortifications. With the aid of artillery we destroyed, on the 2nd a portion of the enemy's gallery.

On the 6th the French, trying the same means, attempted our countermines. The attempt turned to their own disadvantage.

On the 8th the play of a new mine enabled us still more to destroy the enemy's works. Meantime our artillery successfully replied to the fire of the besiegers.

At night detachments of volunteers continually harass the enemy in the trenches, and, by obliging them to beat to arms, compel them to suspend their works.

The *Messenger* publishes despatches from Vice-Admiral Boscawen to the 13th inst., but they consist chiefly of reports of arrivals, with troops, provisions, and provender. He further says:—"The *Tage* got aground at the entrance of Kanatch Bay, but was got off, without much damage. The siege works go on slowly, in consequence of the bad weather. The enemy is fortifying his right, and getting the new guns into position on the Quarantine side. General Niel embarks to-day on board the *Reine Hortense*."

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CAMP.

Detailed intelligence published in the daily journals comes down to Feb. 11. On the preceding day Omar Pacha arrived and had a council of war with the generals. The rain came down incessantly. Very few huts are erected, not more than about twenty or twenty-five in all, for hospital purposes. The whole of the English lines only mount 14 mortars, and the French 27; 41 in all. The fire of these must certainly produce much mischief. That they would rain the town and destroy the Russian earthworks seemed generally admitted, but that the fire of our present lines would destroy the shipping or injure the actual fortifications of Sebastopol, was said to be out of the question. The tramway at Balaklava was making most astonishing progress. "Already some of the filthiest and most noisome dens where the poor Turks used to congregate and die in hundreds, have been levelled. Part of the tramway has been laid down; and Mr. Campbell, expresses himself confidentially, that before another month the rails will be completed to the foot of the plateau of hills on which our camp is situated. This will undoubtedly remove one of our greatest and most trying difficulties, and enable us to transmit, if necessary, 500 tons of shot and shell per day."

Balaklava harbour presents some appearance of order, and that is saying much, when it is considered that the place is as much crowded as a London or Liverpool dock. But the harbour is very crowded with shipping, and the same want of the most ordinary precautions against fire is still the order of the day. "I am quite tired of stating over and over again the imminent danger to which this carelessness exposes all. In a harbour containing nearly 2,000 tons of powder, and on the safety of which the fate of the whole expedition may be said to depend, it would not seem quite out of place to issue a few regulations to be observed in case of its outbreak, and ordering that, under penalty of a heavy fine, all lights and fires should be extinguished after ten o'clock at night. Every vessel would be compelled to do so if in dock, and why not now, when the interests of all Europe, perhaps for centuries, hangs upon the safety of Balaklava and its mass of shipping?" A later letter states that some stringent regulations have been adopted.

A considerable force of the enemy, to the number of 18,000 men, have returned and taken up permanent quarters on the east of the plain of Balaklava, and round the village of Tchourgoum. There was plenty of meat and bread in Sebastopol, but the men want spirits; thousands are employed in conveying provisions to Simpheropol for the garrison. The Russians had undermined the southern forts. From the 28th January to 9th February, 1,683 men were invalided; and it was stated that 300 would be so on the 10th; the deaths during the above period were 600. On the 10th, the ground was covered with snow. The Russians made no movement.

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT.

With regard to the actual position of affairs in the camp, the *Morning Post* observes:—"The crisis of misery in the Crimea may now be said to be past. Much there is to come which will not be pleasant to read. We shall have tales of sickness and of suffering, of battles, blood, and wounds, but not in the ratio of the past three months. The worst is over. Whatever the army may have to endure in the shape of natural casualties of war, time only can reveal; but we have for the present the comfort of knowing that at least they are huddled, clothed, fed, and relieved from much of the fatiguing duty in the trenches which hitherto has tried them so severely. The result is a diminution in the number of the sick; a rapid rise in the spirits of the men, and a greater ardour to be led forth against the enemy. The actual state of the Russian army it is impossible accurately to specify. Reinforcements to the extent of one hundred thousand men are said to have arrived. But against this must be set the loss of thirty-five thousand in hospital. The cavalry have lost seven thousand horses, and many that remain are too disabled to do duty."

The French journals publish with expressions of satisfaction reports of the improving condition of our army. The *Debat* gives insertion to a letter dated Balaklava, Feb. 2, in which we read:—"Our allies are now in full restoration as they phrase it. Provisions abound, the soldier has already forgotten that he was ever upon half rations, the winter clothing is distributed, and barracks are beginning to cover the quay of Balaklava. Many of the men are dressed in Hungarian fur coats, and wear immense waterproof boots."

The *Constitutionnel* says: "We understand that most favourable news have been received from the allied armies. At the date of the 6th, the situation of the English army was every day becoming more satisfactory. It was incessantly receiving new reinforcements. A regiment of hussars and two regiments of infantry from India were shortly expected. Officers

of these regiments had already arrived at headquarters. The French army, notwithstanding the severe trials it had passed through, presented the finest aspect; the morale of the men was perfect, and the sanitary condition very good. There was an abundance of provisions and stores. Nothing was wanting to the army; and the works, which had been carried on with great energy, were nearly terminated."

THE RUSSIANS AGAIN BEFORE BALAKLAVA.

All the recent accounts indicate a probability of renewed operations on the part of the Russian relieving army. Liprandi's corps, we are told, reappeared before Balaklava, 35,000 strong, on the 7th, and began to intrench themselves on their old position about Kamara. On the two following nights the Allies were under arms, momentarily expecting an attack. The guns in the batteries were carefully laid to command the various approaches to the works, and all the troops in the guard-house, and on sentry in the village, moved up to the heights with the 2nd battalion of the 71st Highlanders, which had only arrived a short time before. The Vesuvius steam-sloop landed all her men to take charge of the town and stores, while Admiral Boxer went from transport to transport and had all the crews, turned up and got under arms, in order to be ready to land and defend the houses of the town if such a step should be necessary. The Russians have got heavy guns in position on the heights, guns, such as could never have been moved across the soft plains without extraordinary efforts, back in their old position as if by magic. It appears that Liprandi never removed the guns. They were simply buried in the redoubts, and a few men have been sufficient to dig them up and remount them. It is evident from the position of the guns, that they are to be used in the intended attack on Balaklava, and for no other purpose. It is conjectured, however, that the main object of this movement is to place this division of the army in readiness to fall on in case an assault should be attempted on Sebastopol; and in the mean time to obtain a position, if possible, whence the railway can be shelled.

WHEN WILL SEBASTOPOL FALL?

At Sebastopol itself there seems very little doing. The Russians occasionally employ a fine day in perfecting their defences still further—stronger they cannot be. All their energies seem now directed towards rendering them neat and finished-looking, and if it is any object to have attained this result they have certainly done so, as our officers one and all agree their lines are perfect models. . . . On the French side all is in perfect readiness to open fire; all their guns are mounted, and most of their ammunition is ready in the different magazines. As heretofore, they are only waiting until the English preparations are sufficiently complete to support their attack. All our attempts to reach the shipping have as yet most signally failed owing to the care and skill with which the enemy keep them under cover of the land, warping into fresh positions the instant a new battery threatens. With the exception of 15 or 16 pieces, all our new guns are in position; and we now only wait until sufficient supplies of shot and shell are placed to warrant the recommencement of the siege. The whole of the English lines only mount 14 mortars, and the French 27; 41 in all. The fire of these must certainly produce much mischief, both to the town and its southern defences, but if one may judge the future by the past, we have no reason for thinking that it will be effectual in reducing the town. The capture of Sebastopol is all but impossible while the north forts remain in the hands of the enemy, and towards the reduction of these we have not made one single step. That we shall ruin the town and destroy the Russian earthworks seems generally admitted, but that the fire of our present lines will destroy the shipping or injure the actual fortifications of Sebastopol is said to be out of the question. Depend upon it your readers will only hear of the capture of Sebastopol when we have an army sufficiently numerous to invest both north and south. Such an army will not be here, and such an extended position cannot be taken up, until the spring is well advanced, when our lines must be of sufficient strength and sufficiently well protected by a covering force to defy all attempts of the Emperor to raise the siege. Whenever that time comes, the days of Sebastopol will, indeed, be numbered; but until we are in a position to do so, it is in vain to expect the total capture of the place. I am most decidedly under the impression that, if spring returns, and Sebastopol is still unsubdued, the war continues and the people are bent on its reduction, we shall pass the summer besieged in our own lines, quietly waiting until autumn again shuts up the chance of Russian reinforcements, to recommence our attacks under better management and more favourable auspices.—*Morning Herald Correspondent*, Feb. 9.

BUFFALO TOWN.

To remedy the great and much felt want of beasts of draught, our commissariat sent to Baltschik and Varna for a supply of buffaloes, those quiet, slow, and hideous beasts, which do more work in a day than a horse in a week. They arrived here a few days since, to the number of about 200, and as warm stables were necessary to shelter them from the intense severity of a Crimean winter, a long row of comfortable wooden sheds were erected for their special accommodation between Balaklava and Kadikoi. This place has now received the name of "Buffalo Town," and both from the extent and variety of its edifices it bids fair to completely eclipse the remnant of a village of which it is an offshoot. To this spot, after being ejected from Balaklava, have migrated the various tribes of all countries who, under the name of sutlers, have swindled both men and officers, and amassed small fortunes by trading on our necessities. I went down yesterday to see the rising town, of which everyone now begins to talk, and certainly was struck with the

celerity with which the wooden metropolis and centre of our Crimean trade had been run up. Not that all the houses are of wood; far from it. Buffalo Town boasts every kind of structure, from the common stone stand of a Jew or Tartar who has staked his all in a venture of clay pipes and cheeses, to the handsome eight-windowed residence of our Rothschild of the provision market, Mr. Oppenheim. Tents, mud-huts, stalls, wooden houses, canvas screens, and, in short, every possible kind of shelter from which any possible kind of article can be sold, abound here. The population which frequents this place is as varied as the place itself. All the different branches of the English, French, and Turkish services, with other foreigners innumerable, may be met here on a Sunday in every possible combination of winter costume, from the spruce, active neat French soldier to our own men-of-war's men, with huge flowing beard and moustachios, greatcoats made of cowhide, and trousers of buffalo skin; resembling, in fact, great bears, with nothing to remind you of our blue jackets but their bold rollicking, defiant spirit, which four long months in the trenches have not been able to subdue. The Turks frequent the long gaudy line of tents, where under the crescent and Sultan's cypher, gin, raki, coffee, sweetmeats, and tobacco, are vended at the most exorbitant prices, and from which seductions the followers of the prophet always come away either discontented or drunk. The English haunt more extensive stores, where everything but the article of which you are in search can be obtained, and where, if one asks for preserved meats, he is sure to be told they are all gone, but that some admirable tea spoons, tin kettles, and pocket combs, still remain on hand. The French have peculiar places of their own, in which, after much vociferation, and many threats of appealing to the authorities, they generally wind up by expending to the amount of an English penny or so. Amid all this clamour and hurry, little Greek and Maltese boys rush in and out laden with eggs, bristles, thick boots, gloves, pipes, sausages, and all the other little creature comforts of which dwellers in the camp are supposed to stand so much in need, and generally offer them to passers-by for about one hundred times their actual value. Great was the astonishment and indignation of the "navvies," who were at Buffalo Town for the first time yesterday, to find the prices at which things found eager purchasers here. Such was the scene at our new town on Sunday. Opposite the place where all the trade was going forward, a large party of Turks were digging graves; while a little below them were a party of our own men engaged in a similar melancholy duty; and along the road through the "town" a long file of sick men from camp, coming in on cavalry horses, wrapped in their blankets, and scarcely able to sit in the saddle, completed the melancholy picture, and gave the "navvies" a good idea of a Sunday in the Crimea.—*Morning Herald*.

SCRAPE AND GOSSIP.

All the natives here agree in stating that during the month of March the north-east winds are of such a piercing coldness as to make even the Cossacks fear to face them.

The sickness is steady and quite undiminished. Ever since the commencement of last December we have been invaliding at a fearful rate to Scutari, and from Scutari none return.—*Morning Herald Correspondent*.

I am sorry to say that no steps appear to be taken towards interring the carcasses of horses and mules with which we are surrounded on all sides. The most lively alarm is now felt at the prospect of a return of hot weather, while such fruitful sources of pestilence cumber the ground.

The Government has sent out a tramway with workmen, why not send out a few lime-burners also? There is enough limestone here to make sufficient lime to cover the whole surface of the country, and some such disinfectant will be wanted if the army is required to remain here.

Wolves are now frequently seen prowling about the vicinity of the camp, and several have been shot. I am informed that a private in the cavalry, while on the hills within 100 yards of the cavalry camp, was attacked by a large bear two nights since. His cries brought some of his comrades to his assistance, and the ferocious beast was driven off, though not before one of the man's arms had been most severely lacerated.

REPULSE OF THE RUSSIANS AT EUPATORIA.

The following telegraphic despatch has been received from Lord Raglan, through the British agent at Bucharest:—"Before Sebastopol, Feb. 18, 1855.—A force, said to be 40,000, of Russians, with a large number of guns, attacked Eupatoria at daylight on the 17th, and was repulsed with loss by Omar Pasha. Turkish loss said to be inconsiderable; but Selim Pasha, commanding Egyptian brigade, was killed. The British men-of-war, under the Hon. Captain Hastings, covered both flanks with great effect. The action terminated at ten a.m., when the Russians retired a few miles.

The *Moniteur* in a similar despatch states that the Turks lost 15 killed and 35 wounded. A Vienna despatch sets down the Russian loss at 500. [If Liprandi was near Balaklava on the 10th how came he to be at Eupatoria so soon afterwards? Probably General Osten Sacken was in command.]

SCUTARI HOSPITAL.

A letter in the *Daily News*, dated Constantinople, Feb. 12, says:—"Scutari Hospital, although in a very different state to what it was in, three months ago, is still very far from what the English would wish it to be. Much might be remedied here could 'red-tapery' be got rid of. There is no want of any articles, but the complaint is the great difficulty of getting them out of store. Even for a single candle a regular indent is required. Those of the men now in the wards to whom I have spoken seem as cheerful as men in their position usually are. For the last few days a new sort of

low fever has been on the increase, and, from all accounts, it seems to resemble the yellow fever of the West Indies. It not only attacks the men in hospital, but the staff officers living at Scutari. The chaplains and medical men have all been sufferers. Several of the latter have been carried off by it; and it is said that not one half of those attacked will for a long time, if ever, be again thoroughly fit for duty. Miss Nightingale has been attacked by fever, but was yesterday almost herself again."

Orders have been received by M. de Messy, the chief Intendant of the French hospital at Constantinople, to have beds prepared for 5,000 men immediately. The general impression among the French is that some decisive operation is determined upon by the allied Generals.—*Times Letter*.

The appeal recently made by the *Times* for a second subscription for the sick and wounded in the East, has been most liberally responded to. The total amount advertised up to yesterday (including the £10,000 already expended) was £24,483 11s. 4d.

For the seven days ending February 7, there had been a total of 382 deaths at Scutari. There were at the last-mentioned date 5,046 non-commissioned officers and privates, and 89 officers on the sick list of the hospitals; and, during the period in question, there had arrived from Balaklava, the Golden Fleece, with 409 on board, of whom 14 died on the passage; the Australia, with 149, of whom four died; the Andes, with 198, of whom two died; the Ripon, with 129, of whom three died; and the Gomelza, with 108 of whom 11 died.

THE GERMAN POWERS AND THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.

Lord John Russell was expected at Vienna yesterday (Tuesday) or to-day. It is not thought that the negotiations will be long protracted, unless England and France declare themselves ready to give up the objects for which they have taken arms. The Russian party ascribe to Prince Gortschakoff the declaration that the Czar will never consent to displace a stone of the forts of Sebastopol, and that any effort to take the place will be regarded as showing that neither France nor England sincerely wishes to treat for peace.

Lord John Russell has left Paris for Berlin and Dresden. He is accompanied by Lord Dufferin, Mr. Hammond, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (an experienced servant of the Crown for detail), Mr. Hastings Russell, Mr. Leicester, and Mr. Byng.

The Paris *Pays* says:—"The mission of Lord John Russell gives an extraordinary élan to the Conference of Vienna, which, by the presence of such a statesman, as well as that of M. Titoff, the Envoy extraordinary of Russia, will, to all intents and purposes, become a veritable congress." Baron de Prokesch is to be the second Austrian Plenipotentiary. The French Minister, Baron de Bourqueney, will, it is believed, be assisted by Count Flahaut.

Nothing further is known of the negotiations between France and Prussia. It is generally supposed they have come to naught. Prussia wishes to enter the conference, but not to bind herself to any positive engagement against Russia. M. Drouyn de Lhuys has held very decided, although conciliatory, language to General Wedell, and the issue of the negotiations will not be long delayed.

The Committee of the Second Chamber at Berlin has resolved to propose a vote of want of confidence in the Ministerial policy. On Thursday, the Special Committee of the Second Chamber voted the war-credit by a large majority. The Committee propose—first, an Address to the King, which, according to their sketch, is to express their dread of isolation, and the conviction that a policy based on that idea is the only guarantee for the future of Prussia. Secondly, a rejection of the prolonged credit demanded by the Government. This second proposition was adopted by a coalition of the Right and Left Extremes against the Moderate party.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Russia has declared war against Sardinia. A number of steam-ships have been appointed to cruise in the Sea of Azoff.

Tuscany has acceded to the Western alliance against Russia.

The Glasgow Patriotic Fund now amounts to over £44,000.

A Russian despatch, dated Sebastopol, February 18, states that Prince Menschikoff was unwell.

Admiral Nachimoff has just received from the Czar the order of the White Eagle, as a reward for his services at Sebastopol.

Major Naamyth, one of the defenders of Silistria, is shortly to be presented with the freedom of the city of Edinburgh. He is the son of one of its citizens.

Mr. Charles B. Knowles, nephew to Mr. Sheridan Knowles, has been gazetted to an ensigncy, without purchase, in the 77th Foot.

A cast shell Lancaster gun has been forwarded to Woolwich to be experimented upon; it weighs about 6,000lb.

The total sum received up to this time by the Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund exceeds three-quarters of a million sterling.

In the week ending the 3d instant, the Central Association distributed £2,149 in relief to soldiers' wives, widows, and children.

The *Constitutionnel* announces that 5,600 infantry and 800 cavalry will leave probably at the beginning of March. The utmost enthusiasm reigns in the corps. [These are, it is said, to accompany the Emperor to the Crimea.]

Mons. Soyer left London yesterday for Scutari, at the desire of her Majesty's Government, for the purpose of superintending the dietary at the hospital there.

A telegraphic despatch announces the loss of the French vessel *La Sémillante*, with 400 sick and wounded from the East. The disaster occurred off Bonifacio.

Major-General Bentinck will resume his command in the Crimea early next month. It is believed that the cavalry will be placed under the command of Major-General Scarlett.

Major-General Vivian, of the Madras army, who was for many years adjutant-general of that presidency, has been appointed by Lord Panmure to command the Turkish contingent. The officers will be selected principally from the Indian army.

The Austrian Government addressed a note on the 1st of February to the Bavarian Government, formally announcing that Austria considers the placing on a war footing of the federal army of Germany simply as a preparatory step to its mobilization, the demand of which will shortly be renewed.

The *Invalide Russe* affirms that on the 16th of January, Baron Nicolay surrounded the strongest fort held by the Tchetchen, called Schönah-Capon, and took it by storm. This fort is described as the Gibraltar of the Caucasus, and its capture is represented as the heaviest blow yet dealt at the power of Schamyl.

Officers of the East India Company's Army, now on furlough in this country, and also those who have retired from that army but are fit for duty, will, on tendering their services at the proper department at the East India House, be recommended to her Majesty's Government for employment abroad during the war with Russia.

The committee of the Russian "patriotic fund" have just announced their scale of assistance. The families of sub-officers killed in the campaign are to receive an immediate grant of 100 silver roubles (about £16); and those of the higher officers, from 250 to 500 roubles, according to their rank. The same proportion of relief is to be afforded to the wounded; a first benefaction of 50 to 300 roubles being instantly paid over to each.

The *Morning Post* publishes a return, purporting to be official, of the actual number of our army before Sebastopol on the 1st of January. According to the figures thus given, there were available for duty on that day, 24,621 men. During the month of January there was a large mortality, but the *Post* says it has a return in its possession showing the numbers even on the 6th of February to have been 21,000 men fit for service, and exclusive of the naval brigade or the convalescent at Scutari.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

The nomination for the Cardigan Boroughs came off on Thursday. The candidates were Mr. Evans, Q.C., a Liberal in favour of vote by ballot and an extension of the suffrage, and Mr. Lloyd Davies, a gentleman of local standing, and a Conservative. The latter said he would support a Whig ministry if they brought in measures beneficial to the people. He much delighted his audience by addressing them in Welsh. The show of hands was in his favour; so, also, was the polling on the following day, when the numbers were—Davies, 298; Evans, 286.

There are likely to be plenty of candidates for the Montrose Burghs, vacant by the lamented death of Mr. Hume. It is said that his son, Mr. Burnley Hume, will be invited to stand. Another candidate is Sir John Ogilvy, Bart.; while Mr. Trelawny has also published an address offering himself to the electors of Montrose.

Lord John Russell has issued the following address to the electors of London, soliciting their suffrages for his re-election, in consequence of his having joined the Government of Lord Palmerston:—

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

Gentlemen,—Her Majesty having been pleased to confide to me a mission of the highest importance, involving the interests of Europe, and affording hopes of an honourable termination of the present War, I felt it my duty to withdraw for a time from my service to you in Parliament.

While in this capital, intelligence has reached me of the resignation of three of the principal Ministers of the Crown, and Lord Palmerston has asked for my assistance in carrying on the Government.

In the difficult circumstances in which the country is placed, I have not thought myself justified in withholding from the Queen any aid which it might be in my power to afford.

I have, therefore, accepted office, and, on my return from Vienna, shall be prepared to assume its duties and responsibilities. In these circumstances I humbly place myself in your hands as a candidate for the renewal of your confidence.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,
JOHN RUSSELL.

Of course Lord John will be re-elected without making his appearance. The *Times* of yesterday admits a letter asking whether "such a political trickster" is not to be opposed, and suggesting that a better man might be found. It appears that the electors have been invited to bring forward Sir C. Napier in his place.

There seems to be no doubt that Sir John Young has accepted the office of Governor of the Ionian Islands. The Hon. Cavendish Butler has offered himself to the electors of Cavan county as a thorough-going Tory. Captain Annesley and Mr. Anthony O'Reilly are also in the field, as is also Mr. Hercules Ellis, who will merely divide the liberal interest.

Postscript.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords yesterday, the Earl of ELENBOROUGH inquired whether the reported appointment of Major-General Vivian to command the Turkish contingent under British pay was actually completed, expressing some doubts of that gallant officer's experience for so delicate a service.

Lord PANMURE stated that Major-General Vivian

had occupied very similar positions in India, and had received the highest testimonials from the authorities in that country. His appointment to the Turkish command had been determined on upon the evidences of capacity, and the Secretary-of-War considered that his services were likely to prove highly useful in the post to which he had been nominated.

The Criminal Justice Bill and the Speedy Trial of Offenders Bill respectively passed through committee.

The Earl of HARDWICK, in moving for certain returns respecting transports, took occasion to comment upon the manner in which the transport service had been performed during the past campaign. Lord PANMURE gave some explanation touching certain points remarked upon by the noble earl, and after some observations from the Earls of DARNLEY and BALDWINSTON, the returns were ordered to be produced. Their lordships adjourned at half-past seven o'clock.

In the House of Commons, on the motion of Mr. HATFIELD, a new writ was ordered to issue for Southampton, in the room of Mr. Vernon Smith, who had accepted the office of President of the Board of Control.

Sir J. WALMSLEY gave notice for that day fortnight to move, "That in the opinion of this House it would promote the moral and intellectual improvement of the working classes of this metropolis, if the collections of natural history and of art in the British Museum and the National Gallery were open to the public inspection after morning service on Sundays."

In reply to Mr. HADFIELD, the SOLICITOR-GENERAL stated that a measure was being prepared for the reform of the Ecclesiastical Courts.

In reply to Mr. SPOONER, Lord PALMERSTON said the report of the Maynooth commissioners was in course of printing, that it had been revised during the last fortnight, and would, in all probability, in a few days be presented to Parliament.

Sir J. SHELLEY moved for the appointment of a select committee to consider the grounds and justification for the removal of Mr. Kennedy from the appointment which he held as Commissioner of Woods and Forests. The hon. baronet founded his demand for a committee on the plea of public justice, which required that proper reasons should be assigned for the dismissal of a public functionary. Mr. GLADSTONE challenged the hon. baronet to substantiate the allegation that Mr. Kennedy had been dismissed under false pretences, and merely to get rid of an over-zealous functionary. After a lengthened discussion in which Lord STANLEY, Mr. DRUMMOND, Mr. MALINS, Lord SEYMOUR, Mr. STUART, Mr. WILSON, and Mr. WHITBREAD took part, Lord PALMERSTON expressed his entire concurrence in the belief that no imputation rested against the honour or character of Mr. Kennedy. The reputation of the late commissioner being thus cleared, he trusted that the motion for appointing a committee would be withdrawn. It would establish a precedent calculated to interfere with the discretion of the chiefs of departments. Sir J. SHELLEY replied, and Lord Palmerston consenting to place upon record at the Treasury a minute exonerating Mr. Kennedy from any impeachment of his veracity, consented to withdraw the motion.

Mr. R. PHILLIMORE obtained leave to bring in a bill abolishing the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts in suits for defamation of character.

The reports from the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means were respectively brought up and agreed to.

The Commons Enclosure Bill passed through committee. The Speaker announced that the Cambridge election petition had been withdrawn.

The House adjourned at a quarter to 1 o'clock.

THE WAR.

The following despatch from Lord Raglan is published in last night's *Gazette*:—

Before Sebastopol, Feb. 13, 1855.

My Lord Duke,—I mentioned to your Grace in my despatch of the 10th instant, that there had been a return of bad weather, and that the country was saturated with wet.

On Sunday it rained or snowed from morning till night, and the wind was very high, and though it was fine yesterday, still the ground was in a worse state than I had seen it for some time.

The enemy has made no movement.

Major-General Jones, Royal Engineers, arrived a few days ago, and is busily engaged in making himself acquainted with the position occupied by both armies.

Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown has also returned, and, I have great satisfaction in adding, in excellent health. His wound is healed, and, with the exception of not having entirely regained the full use of his elbow, he no longer suffers any inconvenience from it.

He will resume the command of his division without loss of time.

I enclose the return of the casualties to the 11th instant. (One killed and two wounded.)

I have, &c.,
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

Prince Menshikoff writes from Sebastopol, on the 19th inst.: "On the 17th the troops cantoned in the vicinity of Eupatoria were employed in a reconnaissance against the town at a distance of 250 toises. They opened a cross fire, and the artillery in a very short time dismounted some of the enemy's guns, and also blew up five chests of ammunition. General Churloff, who commanded, knowing that Eupatoria had a garrison of 40,000 men and 100 guns, ordered his detachment to withdraw out of range, which was effected in the best order. The siege works before Sebastopol make no progress: our artillery and rifles effectually prevent that. On the 13th we blew up a powder magazine in the French trenches."

The Sinai brings advices from Constantinople of the 19th, and Balaklava the 17th. The sorties of the Russians are less frequent. A strong French division has moved to the extreme right of our attack. Russian deserters affirm that the Czar is expected at Sebastopol. General Niel expresses his decided opinion that the siege will soon have a successful issue.

General Williams has received the rank of a General of Division, and powers to reconstruct the Turkish army of Anatolia. Thick Pacha, son-in-law of Omer Pacha, has died at Eupatoria, of typhus. The weather is mild.

There has been a report, not yet confirmed, that some thousands of Russians have perished in the snow on their way to Sebastopol.

LOUIS NAPOLEON'S VISIT TO THE CRIMEA.

Throughout the week the expected visit of the Emperor of the French has been a prominent topic by the Paris correspondents of the London newspapers. On the whole, opinion has inclined in favour of the accuracy of the rumour. It is now stated that the Emperor has been induced to delay his journey by Lord John Russell, but that he will leave on the 3rd or 7th of March. All the persons who will compose the suite of the Emperor have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness to start at a moment's notice; and the guards who are to accompany him have received the gratification which is usually paid when about to start on any special duty. The Paris papers cannot, of course, say much on the subject, but an article in the *Constitutionnel* of Monday, is thought to be something like a semi-official announcement. The writer—M. Amédée de Cessac—intimates that the impending spring campaign is now universally spoken of as "the war of the three Emperors;" prophecies that this war will give to Europe "a durable and solid peace;" announces that "with a new impulse, France shall be seen everywhere with her fleets and armies;" and proclaims that "this glorious role which France has taken in the Eastern question guarantees to her an immense ascendancy in her future position in the world." England is only spoken of incidentally, and as of subordinate importance along with Turkey and Sardinia. "We cannot," says the writer, "remain altogether strangers, nor even indifferent, to the universal anticipations of the public. We can no more confirm than we can deny the rumours which attribute equally to the two sovereigns of France and Austria the intention of taking the command, respectively, of their armies."

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS.

(From the *Globe*.)

Mr. Vernon Smith has accepted the office of President of the Board of Control, and a new writ for Northampton will be probably moved for this evening. Mr. Danby Seymour, we believe, succeeds Mr. Lowe as Secretary to the India Board. No vacation of his seat results from his acceptance of office. Mr. Villiers, who was offered the Vice-Presidency of the Board of Trade, we understand, declines that office, and retains his present post of Judge Advocate General. Mr. W. Cowper succeeds Mr. Fitzroy as Under Secretary of State for the Home Department; and Sir Robert Peel will probably go to the Colonial office as Under Secretary. Mr. Monckton Milnes, has declined the Secretaryship of the Treasury, rendered vacant by the resignation of Lord Alfred Hervey. In filling the Secretaryship of the Ordnance, Lord Palmerston was anxious to avail himself of the business experience of Mr. Laing, whose aid in arranging the future operations of the office in connexion with the war departments would, doubtless, have been most valuable. The extent of that gentleman's commercial undertakings, however, obliged him to decline the offer. The Secretaryship of the Ordnance, therefore, as well as the office of Vice-President of the Board of Trade, a Lordship of the Treasury, and a Lordship of the Admiralty, remain vacant. (We may add that Lord St. Germans having decided to follow the example of his Peelite friends, Lord Cardale will proceed to Ireland as Lord-Lieutenant.—*Times*.)

Lord John Russell spent last Sunday, and part of Monday, in Brussels, and left on Monday night for Cologne and Berlin.

Mr. John Bunbow, M.P. for Dudley, died at Hastings on Saturday last, at the advanced age of 87.

The newly-appointed Governor of South Australia, Sir Richard McDonald, has received the honour of knighthood from her Majesty.

Her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert have most generously forwarded to the Bishop of London a sum of £300 as a joint contribution to the Association for Promoting the relief of Destitution in the Metropolis.

Captain Sturt, an invalided officer from the Crimea, offers himself to the electors of Northampton in place of Mr. Vernon Smith, to give them an opportunity of deciding whether, after that gentleman had voted against enquiry, he is worthy of their confidence.

A requisition is in course of signature to Sir Charles Napier, calling upon him to offer himself as a candidate for the city of London, in opposition to Lord John Russell; and there seems to be every probability that he will at once accede to the request. It seems that some of the Conservative party have expressed their intention of voting for any candidate who may present himself in opposition to Lord John. The Sheriff of the city of London having yesterday received the writ for the election, proceeded to the Guildhall for the purpose of making the usual proclamation.

CORN-EXCHANGE, MARK-LANE, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1855.

We have but little doing in our market to-day, prices as on Monday.

Arrivals this week.—Wheat, English, 310 qrs. Barley, English, 100 qrs. Oats, English, 1,800 qrs.; Irish, 1,300 qrs. Flour, Foreign, 5,260 barrels.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The Terms of Subscription are (payment in advance), 26s. per annum, 13s. for the half-year, and 6s. 6d. per quarter.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"J. G. K." We will make inquiry on the subject.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1855.

SUMMARY.

THE war is not only "using up" individual statesmen, one by one, but whole Ministries become its victims. A change of Government is now like a turn of the kaleidoscope; and, as Mr. Cobden facetiously remarked the other day, we shall soon need a Foreign Enlistment Bill to recruit her Majesty's Government. Lord Palmerston, it is true, is still Premier, but he is no longer head of last week's Cabinet. The Peelite element, with the solitary exception of Lord Canning, has entirely disappeared from the higher offices of state, although, by a singular incongruity, the name of the deceased statesman has become more familiar in the lower regions of official life. Once more Whiggism stands alone and self-confident to conduct the affairs of the country. It is true the new Premier cannot be classed as a mere Whig; but, then, it is to be borne in mind that Palmerston is equally fitted to be the Corinthian capital of any Administration—like those ingenious toys, which present a succession of different characters by the same head being placed upon different shoulders.

Lord Palmerston has, however, re-constructed his Cabinet and claimed at the hands of Parliament and the country that fair trial to which he is entitled. We may presume that the general principles on which his Government will be conducted will be those of the late—(we mean the Aberdeen) Ministry. So far as its war policy is concerned it is to be the same as that of which Lord Clarendon has throughout been the exponent. Lord John Russell is to make peace, if he can, at the approaching Conference; but at all events, we are assured by the Premier that his presence in Vienna will, in any event, be brief. Unless the noble lord and his co-plenipotentiaries are prepared to agree that the siege of Sebastopol shall be raised and the great fortress left standing in all its strength, we may safely conclude that he will shortly return to discharge his new duties as Secretary of State for the Colonies.

But of far greater consequence than the *personnel* of the Ministry is the actual appointment, without a division, of the committee for enquiring into the Crimean disasters. Mr. Roebuck has been unanimously elected chairman—a sufficient guarantee that the investigation will not prove "a sham." In fact, now that the inquiry has been decided on, it becomes every day more evident that there will be no lack of material to enable the committee to carry it on. Lord Palmerston and the War Minister seem to be earnestly endeavouring to rectify some of the most glaring consequences of mismanagement, as though determined to anticipate the recommendations of the committee. One urgent matter for investigation is the conduct of the Horse Guards—an anomalous authority independent of Government control. It is hoped that inquiry may begin *here*, and the accuracy of the charge against Lord Hardinge, that his administration has been distinguished "as a time of feebleness and favouritism unprecedented," and latterly for great "incompetence," fully tested. In addition to his various commissions to the Crimea, which it appears are to exercise more direct authority than was at first supposed, Lord Palmerston has sent some gentleman to Paris to study the organization of the French army, with a view to amend our own.

The reconstruction of the Ministry has rendered necessary several re-elections, and thus affords a favourable opportunity for an expression of public opinion, without offering any factious opposition to the return of the new ministers. The House of Commons has spoken out and carried its point—it is now for the vacant constituencies to make themselves heard. Lord John Russell will not be present at the City election, and it must be confessed that Sir C. Napier is not the man to become his successful competitor. But opportunities will occur for giving expression to the feelings of electors, especially, in relation to ecclesiastical questions. In this aspect the occasion appears to us one of grave importance. Mr. Lowe complained the other day at Kidderminster, that the

subordinate members of the Aberdeen Ministry had unexpectedly been required to acquiesce in the bigotry of its less liberal leaders. On the University question, Church-rates, and cognate subjects their hands were tied. They were not allowed to vote according to their convictions. The simple reason is, because such opportunities as the present for calling to account the leading members of the Cabinet are neglected. Our conviction is that if the Dissenting and Liberal electors of the City of London, Halifax, Northampton, and Radnorshire, by every suitable means, public and private, enforced the subject of Church-rate abolition upon the candidates for their suffrages, the extinction of the obnoxious impost would become a matter of certainty during the present session. The great obstacle to this as to other Ecclesiastical reforms has been Lord John Russell, and it would be lamentable that the Whig leader, should not, in some way or other, be called to account.

The "great fact" of the week in respect to the war is the voting of the extraordinary credits demanded by the Executive. The large estimates have been nearly all granted by an acquiescing, though critical, House of Commons; and the amount will satisfy the most incredulous that war is no child's play. £37,427,338 is the amount of the Army, Navy, and Ordnance Estimates for the present session. And perhaps this is only the *first* call. For the present year we have to find a revenue of nearly £80,000,000 to meet current expenses, besides sustaining unmeasured losses from derangement of trade, and the high price of agricultural produce. The Board of Trade Returns exhibit a falling off of £1,841,000 in our exports for the past year. Another unpleasant indication of hard times is an increase of more than 4 per cent. in the adult able-bodied paupers of the country as on the 13th of January, as compared with the same period last year. These statistics are becoming unpleasantly significant, and present ugly material for the budget of the new Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Correspondence from the Crimea still speaks of trying weather, of a debilitated army, and of the prevalence of scurvy and other scorbutic diseases in consequence of the unvarying salt pork diet. Vegetable food is yet a luxury unattainable by men to whom it has become necessary for the preservation of health. The repulse of the Russians in an attack upon Eupatoria, if not involving any great result, shows that the Turks have not lost the *prestige* gained at Oltenitz and Silistria. The campaign is not yet opened, but the allies are preparing for more decided operations—one important feature of which seems to be the complete investment of the southern side of Sebastopol. It is probable that they will not resume the offensive until the arrival of the French Emperor, who appears to have fully made up his mind to proceed to the Crimea, as soon as the farce at Vienna is terminated, and who, according to report, has himself been devising a plan for storming the great bulwark of Russian power in the South.

The "new revolution" is not checked by the accession of Lord Palmerston to uncontrolled authority in his Cabinet. The Marylebone, Birmingham, and Newcastle meetings, held since the secession of the Peelites and the assent of Government to Mr. Roebuck's committee, show anything but the disposition to accept Ministerial platitudes and departmental changes, in place of a searching inquiry, as the guide to radical reform. In each instance,—significantly varied as is the character of the different localities,—the same substantial demands were made, with a scarcely varying depth of feeling. The absence of vindictiveness in these demonstrations is a remarkable and hopeful symptom. They would search out culpability, but rather to prevent than punish. They denounce, in no gentle terms, the intellectual inadequacy of a Newcastle, and the worse inadequacy of a Russell—inadequacy to the demands of the crisis, for lofty, self-abnegating patriotism—but they demand the abolition of the system, administrative and political, which makes government the heritage of fools and the prize of the ambitious. Meanwhile, there is not wanting a voice to point a deeper moral, and urge to another duty. Mr. G. Thompson is delivering, in the chief towns of Lancashire,—beginning, at Manchester, with an audience of three thousand people,—lectures on the origin of the war, and the necessity of peace; and though his eloquent declamation may not succeed in commending "the four points" to the minds of Englishmen, his searching analysis of diplomatic blue-books cannot fail to aid the diplomatic overthrow.

One other public meeting deserves mention here,—as well from its dimensions as from its object. Exeter Hall was crowded on Wednesday evening,—even to the exclusion of many hundreds—with ardent supporters of Mr. Gladstone's Bill for the Abolition of the Newspaper Stamp. A more impressive refutation of the silly slander which ascribes this movement to a few interested agitators, can hardly be conceived. In the speeches

there was little novel,—except that Mr. G. Dawson gave an emphatic rebuke to Lord John Russell's last effusion of hatred to independent journalism.

Another description of "movement" is happily at an end as soon as began. For two or three days of last week, Southwark and East London were alarmed by the presence of mobs, begging, or taking, food from the shop-keepers. As the ring-leaders of these riotous gangs were of the class that at no time is ashamed to beg, and prefers to rob, their summary suppression was as due to justice as to necessity. Happily, the sudden cessation of the long frost,—however intensely disagreeable,—has released the food of thousands of the labouring poor from its detention in the ice-bound river; and subscriptions in the City have done much to mitigate the pressure of temporary destitution.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE Parliamentary week has been eventful and exciting. It has witnessed the falling asunder of the reconstructed Coalition Cabinet, before it had been completely put together. The followers and disciples of the late Sir Robert Peel, who, it must be conceded, shared among themselves by far the greater part of the talent of the late Ministry, surrendered, on Thursday last, the important executive posts that they had so lately resumed. We were not at all surprised at this result, sincerely as we regretted it. But we have no confidence in an Administration of pure Whigs. We know how little chance the country has, under their advice, of modifying, to any practical purpose, the aristocratic exclusiveness of Government in this country. We cannot say that we welcome Lord John Russell back to office with the pride and satisfaction professed by others. We have, therefore, witnessed the late successive changes with any feeling rather than that of increased confidence. Possibly, our own state of mind may somewhat colour our view of the present temper of the House of Commons. Expressed in three words, it may said to be a mixture of three elements—scepticism, dissatisfaction, apprehension. Men do not believe in the present Government as anything more than provisional—they are farther still from approving of its composition—but they are beginning to get so alarmed at the apparently inextricable mess in which the war has involved us, that they will probably put up with anything rather than force on another change just now. Accordingly, we may expect that what needs doing will be done, and that it will be done silently at times, and at times with a growling undertone.

Indeed, a contest is just now going on between the legislative and executive elements of our constitution, the issue of which can hardly be overrated. The practical questions involved are these two—first, whether the Queen's Government shall be responsible to Parliament—and secondly, whether it shall be based upon conventional or real merits. The first great contest has been fought out, and after the upset of two Administrations, and an unmistakable show of determination to break up successively a dozen more, if need be, the House of Commons remains undisputed master of its position. The second question is virtually bound up with the first—but the practical settlement of it has been tacitly deferred to a more convenient season. The House having tenaciously and successfully asserted its right and resolution to inquire into the nature and extent of executive delinquency, attaches less importance to the *personnel* of the existing Administration, than it would otherwise have been inclined to do, and wisely judges that whilst it holds in its own hands so effectual a check-rein, it is a matter of minor importance whether the team is a preponderant aristocratic or democratic one. A temporary Government is a necessity—a stable Government can result only from a new fusion of political parties, which would be inconvenient, and, perhaps, impossible, during the conduct of the war.

It was on Thursday last, that the coming struggle loomed within sight. We shall not readily forget the ominous aspect of the House of Commons on the afternoon of that day. Very soon after four o'clock the benches were unusually thronged, and earnest and anxious was the conversation which was carried on by the various groups into which members coagulated. The Peelites had left Lord Palmerston, and again he might be said to be without a Government. A sense of disgrace, and a strong feeling of indignation, pervaded the assembly, under the consciousness of being brought into a complete dead-lock by official pertinacity. The impression was, that whilst a few aristocrats were quarrelling over their respective places and pretensions, the country was going to the dogs. Rapid arrangements were being made to give effectual expression to this feeling during the course of the evening, when Lord Palmerston rose, and the House became hushed into a silence that might be felt. The noble lord, without any apparent emotion, cool and unimpassioned as ever, announced the secession of his three friends from the Cabinet, stated on their behalf that they would offer explanations on the

morrow, and requested, on his own, that the House would adjourn all the business set down for the evening, except that which could be transacted without discussion. Mr. Disraeli, in tones of bitter irony, expressed his deep regret and even consternation at the sudden disruption of the noble lord's new Government, and in the course of half an hour the House was up.

The morrow came, but no apparent subsidence of excitement. At half-past four the House was crammed. The preliminary business was soon disposed of, and Lord Palmerston not having arrived, the confused hum or roar of conversation went on without intermission. No, we forget—two or three little incidents amused the House, and showed how thin is the partition between the extremes of gravity and gaiety. In the first place, no little observation was excited, by the walking of the three ex-Ministers into places usually occupied by Messrs. Gibson, Bright, and Cobden. They are immediately below the gangway, on the second bench of the Ministerial side of the House, and their occupation by the seceders was commented upon as emblematic of union between Manchester and Oxford. Mr. Cardwell, who does not go the length of his friends, sat immediately behind the Treasury Bench. Then, Lord Palmerston still lagging behind time, messages were sent to him by the whippers-in, and as these gentlemen returned without their chief, they were laughingly cheered as the only representatives forthcoming of her Majesty's Government. It was just upon the stroke of five o'clock, when Lord Palmerston slipped into the House from behind the Speaker's chair, and in the very midst of the ironical cheer that greeted him, moved the postponement of the order of the day until after the disposal of Mr. Roebuck's motion. One of the grandest debates we have been favoured to listen to thereupon commenced.

Sir James Graham took the lead. As he, and his two colleagues, with characteristic differences, went over the same line, and as we have more than once described their general manner, it will not be necessary, on this occasion, to follow them individually. We had anticipated something in the tone of apology—the tenor of their speeches, however, was that of complaint and rebuke. But the men played their rôle with splendid powers. Sir James was courteous as a bridegroom—but his assumptions were high, his style of thought subtle, his arguments clear and condensed, his diction terse and faultless. He held his subject with the grasp of an athlete, and he turned it over with an air of ease and an absence of apparent effort perfectly admirable. Mr. Sidney Herbert had come straight to the House from a sick bed, and although vigorous and somewhat defiant, was less effective than we have sometimes heard him. Mr. Gladstone, who spoke much later in the evening, poured out a marvel of oratory—too copious, indeed—in parts, too refined and ingenious—but always luminous, persuasive, magnificent. It was like a cascade, monotonous in its profusion—but a cascade upon the broad sheets of whose falling waters sunlight is perpetually dancing. The object of all three was the same—to scare or beguile the House into rescinding its own resolution for inquiry. If arguments technically unanswerable, and eloquence truly fascinating, could but have wrought the House into forgetfulness of the fact that an army had perished of mismanagement, the result might have been doubtful—but, in this instance, unerring instinct and strong common sense overruled every conventional plea, and answered thus—“However unprecedented, however hard upon individuals, however dangerous our resolution, it is a right one and cannot be renounced. Our brethren have perished of neglect, and we, the representatives of the nation, cannot but inquire and punish.”

But the debate had some episodes. Immediately after Sir James Graham's speech, Mr. Bright caught the Speaker's eye. It is difficult to describe the effect he produced upon the House. Expressing his regret at the retirement of the Peelites from office, his respect for the purity of their motives, and his desire to strengthen the Palmerston Cabinet, he passed on to a statement of the quarrel as it now stands between Russia and the Western Powers, and founded upon it a powerful and impassioned appeal, first to the House, and then to Lord Palmerston, to agree, if possible, upon terms of peace, and thus terminate the desolation which war was carrying to almost every family in the land. The earnestness of the man, the anxiety he displayed not to endanger his object by words of offence, the power of his language, and the deep emotion which quivered in his manly voice, thrilled the assembly, and elicited hearty admiration, even where it failed to produce conviction. The House was proud of him, and when he resumed his seat, cheered him to the echo from both sides. Other speakers there were who also made an impression, of whom we may mention Mr. Laing, in favour of inquiry, and Mr. Stuart Wortley, against it. Lord Palmerston's reply, as a rhetorical effort, was miserable—

but as a reason for the course he was pursuing was amply sufficient. In effect it was this—“The country, by an immense majority of its constitutional representatives, insists on inquiry—I have voted against it—I have offered something else in lieu of it—but all in vain—and who am I that I should continue to resist it?” Disraeli opened upon the noble lord with a capital interrogatory—but the violence of his subsequent philippic was answered by the recollection, that he was ready to make any sacrifice but a day or two before, to secure the services of the noble lord in a Derby Administration. The committee, after two divisions on individual names, was nominated, and the crisis, for the present, seemed to be over.

On Monday writs were moved for the places vacated by the acceptance of high office by Lord John Russell, Sir Charles Wood, Lord Duncan, and Sir G. C. Lewis—and also for the Montrose district of boroughs vacant through the death of the venerable Joseph Hume, on whose memory, Lord Palmerston, as leader of the House, pronounced a fitting eulogy. A motion was then made to go into committee on the Army Estimates, on which a sort of miscellaneous debate arose, remarkable for nothing but a very interesting speech from Mr. G. Dundas, who has just returned from the Crimea, and also one of high practical importance, full of shrewd observation, and evincing great business talent, from Mr. Lindsay. The discussions in committee turned up no novelty worth noting—except a challenge from Mr. Stafford to Mr. Sidney Herbert to go out himself to Scutari, and a promise to accompany him if he so determined.

THE DEGRADING NECESSITY.

THE Whigs are back again! We thought they had disappeared for ever, Curtius-like, in the gulf of coalition. We were assured, on the best authority, that they had imitated the example of the noble Roman with his intentions,—and though the gulf did not so tightly close up but that we could hear from the bottom moans more like those of a trapped wolf than of a voluntary sacrifice, we never thought to see the victims re-appear. But here they are,—alive, and almost unbroken; literally alive and kicking—in the joy of recovered independent existence. If the serpents swallowed by Aaron's rod could have returned to their native dust, they could not have wriggled more delighted than do the disgorged prey of the astute Aberdeen.

Even Lord John Russell is again in the Cabinet. It was almost worth twelve months' of disastrous war to have got him banished to the fourth back bench. “A democrat in opposition and an oligarch in office,” hardly any price is to be grudged for his exclusion from the list of Her Majesty's Ministers. His embassy to Vienna was at least as much of a relief to the country as to his late colleagues. Education Bill, Jewish Emancipation Bill, Representation Amendment Bills,—mischievous as shams, when not mischievous as realities—were safely shelved for the session: for, who, remembering that the Congress dances, but does not advance,—that the Russian policy is delay at any price,—that to Austria decision is the peril of existence,—and that Vienna is the most seductive capital in Europe—expects Lord John to return before the House rises? He does not return,—but we are to lose half the benefit of his absence. His name, stained with the proofs of heartless ambition as well as of political incapacity, figures once more on the list of our rulers, and is to be presented afresh to the electors of the premier constituency. His followers are to be kept obedient to the Cabinet by the imagination of his presence. The rival of whose popularity he is so jealous, of whose ejection he was the instrument, and of whose resentment the victim, has obtained his support for a system of demonstrated incapability without incurring the danger of its destruction by his incautious hands. Our colonies are handed back, at least in name, to the Minister whom they remember only for his suspension of their constitutional rights. And the world is informed that there is in England such an “ignoble dearth of noble souls,” we must place two offices of onerous dignity upon the shoulders that could not carry the easy responsibility of gratuitous adviser to the Cabinet, or the handsome sinecure of Lord President.

Nor is this the worst of it. Not only are the Whigs in, but everybody else is out. Such an ornamented Cabinet never was seen. With one exception, every man has a “handle to his name”—and the exception is Mr. Vernon Smith, who, with a foresight only equalled by his modesty, moved during the discussion of the India Bill that the salary of the President of the Board of Control be raised from £2,000 to £5,000; to which office he now succeeds. The list of members of the Ministry looks at present like a leaf out of the Peerage,—and the remaining blanks may be safely filled up from that Cabinet maker's Handbook, or Statesman's *Vade Mecum*: Bedford edition. In this it contrasts not less with Lord Derby's Ministry than with Sir Robert Peel's; nor in this only. Each of those statesmen made the

most of the talent his party could supply. Lord Palmerston, on the contrary, seems to have given dulness the preference, and to have neutralized talent by putting it to unaccustomed work. With steady Frederick Peel at the War Office, and his volatile brother at the Colonial or Ordnance indifferently,—the dull and retrograde Sir Cornwall Lewis in the place of that brilliant Liberal, Mr. Gladstone—and Sir Charles Wood to restrain the anti-Horse-Guards ardour of Mr. Osborne—we might well imagine it was intended to set off by force of contrast, the original poverty of colour.

To Lord Palmerston, this may be a mere joke. He may see, in the attempt to conduct this great empire through a perilous crisis, only the highest of those opportunities he has systematically sought for and protracted—an opportunity of showing how safely he can wave a torch in a fog of combustible gases. But to the country it is at once a dangerous and a degrading necessity. It is a necessity because we have allowed the fog to thicken upon us in a region of pitfalls—in plain words, have allowed an oligarchy to conduct us to the verge of anarchy. Till other guides can be got, we must put up with these, blind or treacherous as they have proved; trusting to their knowledge of our wakefulness and wrath to make them do the best they can. We cannot well afford another change of Ministry while negotiations are pending and battles are being fought. We must at all events get the army reinforced, our alliances made clear, the investigation of delinquencies fairly a-foot, and terms concluded with “the other set.” To this limit, Lord Palmerston must be put up with. There will be no opposition offered to his military, nor even to his financial schemes, so long as he confines himself to the work of the hour. His business is to make an end of war,—either by victory or by pacification; and nothing will be refused that has even a plausible relation to that end. But let him not suppose that endurance will be without bound. Let him not suppose that he is essential to the conduct of affairs, even in the judgment of the public. He has deposed himself from that undesired eminence. He has done his country the undesigned service of destroying the worst delusion to which a generous people were ever liable. He has converted their pride in his elevation into a feeling of degradation by his audacious indifference to their will. In a belief of his abilities which we take to be a mistake, they asked for his services,—and he has contrived to make himself their master. But it will be seen that, in the long run, they are stronger than he. The demand was for larger changes than a change of men,—and he has given them scarcely that, or only for the worse. The cry for power in the place of privilege, he derides and mocks. The spirit he has helped to raise will not be thus appeased. It will grow stronger and fiercer by the impotent attempts to quell it,—and the Palmerston Cabinet, predicted destroyer of aristocratic Government, may fulfil the prediction by destroying itself.

JOSEPH HUME.

SOME seventy years ago,—while the future Napoleon I. and his final conqueror, were at school with Caesar and Marshal Saxe—ere the son of Chatham had exchanged the college gown for the robes of his chancellorship—while the sceptre of India was yet in the hand of a native prince—Joseph Hume was a fatherless boy, learning a little English and less Latin, of the dominie of a Scotch fishing-town. His father had been master, and part owner, of a coasting smack. His mother tried her hand at the nautical art, but gave it up for a crockery shop. The utmost she could do for her youngest son was to get him apprenticed to a doctor, who taught him nothing but how to “make up” prescriptions. Yet the lad's fortunes almost kept pace with those of the Corsican Caesar and his Anglo-Indian rival. He, too, went to college, and thence to India,—made a fortune in about twenty years,—returned to England to become an “institution” of the nation that overthrew Napoleon and rewarded Wellington—and has lived to see the nephew of the one upon the throne of France; the corpse of the other carried to St. Paul's; the political system represented by William Pitt threatened with the extinction that has long since overtaken his personal connexions; and the scene of his own early successes, more than twice as populous as the Russian empire, a possession of the British Crown.

It is not an extravagance to speak of Joseph Hume as a national “institution.” He was scarcely less so than the Speaker of the House of Commons, or the gentlemen of the gallery. From his election for Aberdeen in 1818, he has not been out of Parliament a single session, and he has been silent scarcely a single night. His motions were almost as numerous as his speeches, and were generally successful in their direct object—the production of “returns.” With the aid of the knowledge thus obtained, he became a searching critic into the national expenditure—non-official auditor of the accounts—lux-

eyed in the detection of excessive or improper charges—impregnable accuracy in his statement of a grievance. And he had some of the impersonal qualities of an "institution." He was invulnerable alike to toll and ridicule—equally incapable of physical weariness and mental tedium. He could "bore" and endure to be bored to any extent. He was rarely irritated or indignant, and never inspired to the eloquence even of emotion. Hence the universality of the respect he earned. The interests he assailed were innumerable, and must often have been inflamed to resentment; but it was not possible to nourish rancour against a man who was so imperturbably good humoured as well as unimpeachably disinterested. His integrity was as patent as his industry,—and in part its result; for being not only truthful, but a truth-seeker, he had none of the intellectual insincerity of men content with an indolent consciousness of pure motives. But he had also some of the defects native to the character we have attributed to him. He dealt with facts, not with principles—and for the most part, with little facts. Comprehensive as were his labours, they were never synthetic. He pioneered the free-trade movement by an enormous collection of testimonies to the evil of monopoly—but never grasped the science of commercial relations. He supported Burdett's motion for Parliamentary reform—did more than any other single man to raise the tempest which swept away Old Sarum and Gatton—aided to draw up the People's Charter—and had his own annual motion in later days; yet never impressed men with a sense of his abstract democracy. The hundred millions which he is said to have saved to the State, he saved in dribblets; and was marvelously indifferent to the grandeur of his achievements in the aggregate—the amount of human happiness and retrenched unrighteousness thereby represented. The same narrowness of intellect was evinced in his famous declaration of readiness to vote black white to keep in the Whigs—a saying too well rendered into action since the approach of death made the amenities of life more appreciated than its duties. He was a practical Radical, as opposed to the philosophic Radical—and, with all its defects, the former species is much to be preferred to the latter.

While his private life is fraught with illustrations of the virtues enjoined in copy-books and written out large in the career of heroes—the sagacity, self-respect, and persevering labour by which money is accumulated, and in larger natures, nations saved or laurels won,—his Parliamentary life is the most striking modern type of the Independent Member. Aspiring youth may gain from his history lessons of guidance as well as of incitement—conscientious politicians, the secrets of success, and its certainty. Should not the "counterfeit presentment" of a man who thus speaks though dead, be made conspicuous where it would be also most appropriate? The People are sure to set up memorials in honour of Joseph Hume. Let the Commons anticipate them by placing his statue in St. Stephen's Hall. As pure-hearted a gentleman as Falkland, albeit a plebeian,—a worthy successor of Hampden, in committee of supply,—his pedestal may well be on a level with theirs; and where could it so appropriately stand, as where it would point to citizens a path of distinction, and to senators the reward of fidelity?

THE LAW OF LANDED PROPERTY.

(From a Correspondent.)

EIGHT centuries ago a foreign race invaded these shores, obtained dominion over the Saxon inhabitants, and founded institutions that have impressed their character upon British history. The object of the Norman freebooters was to subjugate completely the conquered, and to secure peculiar and monopolising privileges for the conquerors and for their descendants, who are supposed to constitute the so-called aristocratic class. A thousand wrongs, that have held the masses in bondage, or deprived them of their just rights, for ages, have had their origin in the feudal customs established by William of Normandy, and his rude followers. The only reason still adduced by the opponents of reform, in support of many of these antiquated customs is, that they are of so ancient a date, and that the parties possessed of these singular advantages have a vested right in them. As if, to be sure, laws, customs, and institutions, considered necessary by Norman barons for the subjugation of a scattered population of some two millions, can be adapted to the condition of a free and intelligent population of nearly twenty millions, in an island that has become the emporium of the world.

One of these illustrations of the wisdom of abiding by the authority of ancients, is the existing law of succession to freehold property in cases of intestacy. For landed property there is one law: for personal property, there is another and a totally different one. As to landed property, there is no uniformity, but

variousness, complexity, mystification, that may well perplex gentlemen learned in law. Thus freehold land, where there is no will, descends entirely to the eldest son. Leaseholds, which are often granted for so long a term of years as to be little less in value than freeholds, descend as personal property, and, therefore, where there is no will, are equitably divided among the leaseholder's children.

As the law now stands, if a parent die intestate, leaving all his property in the funds, that property, being personal, is divided—as justice requires it should be—among all his children. If, however, the parent had invested all his property in freehold, and had died intestate, the eldest son takes the whole, leaving the rest of the children utterly destitute. Again, had the parent only agreed to invest the whole of his property in a freehold estate, intending, when he had completed the purchase, to make provision by will for his children, but dying before the purchase was completed, or the will made, the heir employs the personal property to complete the purchase, and then, to the entire exclusion of every other child, takes possession of the real estate thus purchased. Once more. If a person die without a will, leaving both personal and real property, and if the real property be burdened with a mortgage, the heir-at-law takes so much of the personal property as will clear off the mortgage, and thus becomes possessor of an unencumbered freehold, though in so doing he may beggar every other member of the family.

Moderate, indeed, needs be our knowledge of human nature to be assured, that such a law must often be productive of consequences to society frightful to contemplate, as well from their innate injustice, as from the cruel hardships to which they expose the helpless victims of this unnatural law. A silly and groundless apprehension that to make one's will is to hasten the day of one's death, deters many, it is to be feared, from doing this act of wisdom, justice, and affection to their family. Others are cut off suddenly in the midst of arrangements that must be completed before they have, in this sense, "set their house in order." Occasionally, fraternal honour and affection may preserve an older brother from taking advantage of a law that largely enriches him by robbing and by reducing to beggary, or to dependence upon the heir, the rest of the deceased's sons and daughters. But as a rule, it is to be feared, that the selfishness of mankind deadens a man's heart against the claims of fraternal justice and affection, where the law sanctions what humanity condemns, and what Christianity forbids.

The honourable member for East Surrey, Mr. Locke King, has given notice of his intention to bring in again a bill to amend the law of succession to freehold property in cases of intestacy. Last session the bill was rejected by the House of Commons. The worthy member, however, is by no means disheartened. "I would remind those who rejoice in its defeat," is his undaunted language, "that they have seen smaller minorities, in a just cause, more than once backed by public opinion, become overwhelming majorities. I feel confident such will be the case in this instance, and I shall persevere every year until I obtain the object I have in view. Meanwhile, let those who oppose me now, and who with me dread dangers and violent revolutions, not forget that the surest way of avoiding such catastrophes is, to accede to reasonable and just reforms before they are demanded as a right; let them remember that all violent changes may be traced to the voice of the people not having been able to produce its effect in improving those laws which are unjust. They ought to bear in mind, that, as we live in democratic times, we must progress; and that the safest way of making progress is by encouraging virtue and industry among the people, and by proclaiming equal and just laws for all classes without distinction."

To these sentiments, as pregnant with wisdom as they are expressive of moral firmness and courage, we will add only another extract from Mr. King's speeches. "There is one kind of eccentricity which is, I fear, gaining ground, and which may, I think, be eventually attended with bad consequences; I allude to property being bequeathed, either directly or indirectly, to the Sovereign,—a practice which might tend to create undesirable suspicions, to degrade the monarchy, and lower the morals of the nation. We have now on the throne a Sovereign beyond all suspicion, who no doubt would act as a faithful guardian in respect to any such bequest, either by taking care of the relations, or in the event of no such relations existing, by applying it to public and benevolent objects." This ought to be done in all such instances; and, perhaps, the honourable member for East Surrey is aware that the Queen did so, when the half-crazed Neald bequeathed her £300,000.

Our readers will see the importance of backing up Mr. King, by sending petitions to the House praying for such alteration in the existing law as shall secure an equitable distribution of the family property, when a parent is so unwise as to die without having made his will.

[A very useful elaboration of the facts and arguments cited by our correspondent, will be found in a paper-covered volume just published by John Chapman, the descriptive title page of which, pending a longer notice, we transcribe:—"Free Trade in Land. An inquiry into the social and commercial influence of the law of succession and the system of entails, as affecting the land, the farmer, and the labourer: with observations on the transfer of land."—Ed.]

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CABINET.

On Thursday last it was reported that the recently-formed Palmerston Ministry had gone to pieces. A Cabinet Council was held on Wednesday before the early sitting of Parliament; and the result of this meeting was that Mr. Gladstone, Sir James Graham, and Mr. Sidney Herbert announced their intention to relinquish their respective posts in the Administration. The motives for this secession are so fully explained in our Parliamentary report that we need not here advert to them. At first, it was believed that Mr. Cardwell would not secede with his Peelite colleagues, and a report prevailed that he was likely to accept the vacant post of Chancellor of the Exchequer. The right hon. gentleman, however, felt bound to follow the fortunes of his friends, and retired with them from the newly formed Cabinet. On Thursday the House of Commons was requested by Lord Palmerston to adjourn over till Friday, when explanations would be given by the retiring Cabinet Ministers. No official statement of the members of the re-constructed Government has yet been given, and it is thought that they will not be announced till after this day (Wednesday), when a Privy Council is to be held. But of the following changes there is no doubt:—

Chancellor of the Exchequer—Sir George Cornewall Lewis *vice* Mr. Gladstone.
First Lord of the Admiralty—Sir C. Wood *vice* Sir James Graham.
Secretary for the Colonies—Lord John Russell *vice* Mr. Sidney Herbert.
Lord of the Treasury—Viscount Duncan *vice* Lord Elcho.
Secretary for Ireland—Mr. Horsman *vice* Sir J. Young.
Vice-President of the Board of Trade—Lord Stanley of Alderley *vice* Mr. Cardwell.

The above appointments have been actually completed. Of those which will most probably take place, the *Globe* anticipates the following:—"Mr. Vernon Smith to be President, and Mr. Danby Seymour Secretary, to the Board of Control. Mr. W. Cowper will probably go from the Admiralty to the Home Office, as Under Secretary. Mr. Monckton Milnes is likely to fill the Second Lordship of the Treasury, in the room of Lord Alfred Hervey, resigned. The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland has not resigned, but in the not improbable event of his doing so, the Earl of Carlisle is, we believe, willing to accept that office. Lord Canning does not, as has been stated, leave the Cabinet. Mr. Peel remains as Under Secretary in the War Department. The Colonial Under Secretaryship is still vacant, Mr. Layard not having accepted that office."

Mr. Laing has been mentioned as likely to accept the office of Vice-President of the Board of Trade. He is member for the Wick Boroughs, and is well-known as the chairman of the Brighton Railway. "Mr. Laing is already conversant with that department of the Government, in which he filled a subordinate situation in early life; and his experience in mercantile affairs, his habits of business, and his excellent manner of Parliamentary speaking on the subjects with which he is conversant, point him out as a very useful member of the new Administration." The office of Clerk of the Ordnance was, it seems, offered to Mr. Layard, but declined. Sir R. Peel will, it is believed, accept the appointment. Mr. Lowe's name was mentioned last week as a likely member of the new Government, but no announcement has been made of his acceptance of office. The report of the nomination of Mr. Vernon Smith to the Board of Control does not find favour with the *Times*. "We must be allowed to say that the nomination of Mr. Vernon Smith to this department would be a breach of faith with Parliament and with the public. It would have the effect of throwing back the affairs of India into the hands of the Court of Directors, for want of a Minister of energy and experience to conduct them, and it would add nothing to the weight and consideration of the Cabinet in the House of Commons or in the country." Another name mentioned for this office is Lord Elgin. Lord Seymour is spoken of as likely to succeed to the Duchy of Lancaster, should the Earl of Carlisle be elevated to a higher office.

Respecting the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, the *Times* says:—"Although this gentleman has not before filled any of the higher offices of State, he has passed with credit through several of the subordinate departments of Government. He was a member of the Poor Law Commission; he has since filled the Joint Secretaryship of the Board of Control, the Under-Secretaryship of the Home Department, and the Financial Secretaryship of the Treasury."

The only prominent Peelite remaining in the Cabinet is Viscount Canning, the Postmaster-General. The Earl of Carlisle has since Tuesday last taken his seat as a member of the Cabinet.

By a curious coincidence it so happened (says the *Daily News*), that, at the very time when Mr. Glad-

stone and his friends were severing their connexion with their Whig colleagues, a remarkable scene was actually taking place in the Tory camp, having direct and significant reference to them. Great dissatisfaction was manifested amongst Lord Derby's followers on learning that their chief had proposed to form a junction with the adherents of Lord Aberdeen. The failure of the attempt did not wholly appease the resentments of the Carlton; and it was felt that, before again venturing to lead their Parliamentary troops to battle, it was indispensable that they should be "talked over" by their plausible but somewhat unpopular chief. Summonses were consequently issued for a meeting of the Tory Opposition at the residence of Lord Eglinton, and the assemblage was harangued by Lord Derby on general topics and general tactics for the space of three quarters of an hour. When the noble Earl concluded, the storm of angry remonstrance and reproach broke forth. The heart of bigotry was full, and it sought relief in vehement denunciations of Peelism, Puseyism, Palmerstonism, and we know not what beside. Lord Derby saw that it was no time for trifling with his party, so he determined to make clean work of it, and to make his humble concession of error upon bended knees! He had no idea, he declared, of the depth of the aversion entertained by his friends for Mr. Gladstone and Sir James Graham. If he had known it, he certainly should not have outraged propriety so much as he had unfortunately done, by seeking to unite, by the golden link of office, those between whom there existed such inveterate antagonism. But he solemnly promised that, if they would once more trust him, he would never make so serious a mistake again. The frowns of the country gentlemen relaxed as they beheld their haughty leader humbled and penitent at their feet. The sardonic countenance of the lieutenant whom he had just three weeks since offered to throw over in order to make room for "Oxford's Own," slowly recovered its wonted air of supercilious self-complacency. He had been sorely wounded by the unworthy offer to sacrifice him to a hated rival in debate, and opponent in policy; but Disraeli could now afford to forgive, for he had been amply avenged. Towards the close of this notable conference, all parties seemed to have resumed their good humour, and mutual reliance on one another's faith and wisdom. The latter sentiment, indeed, was for a moment disturbed by an expression which fell from Lord Derby, to the effect, that in times like these nobody could foresee with whom they might be driven to coalesce; and that, for his part, having begun as a Whig, and been compelled to turn Tory, he should not like to swear that he might not finish by giving office some day or other to Mr. John Bright; so incorrigible is the love of *badinage* in the man, and so wilfully does he try the un-elastic temper of his long-suffering followers.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF JOSEPH HUME.

The patriarch of Parliamentary, economical, and social reform,—the disciple of Bentham and friend of Francis Place,—died on Tuesday, the 20th inst., at his seat, Burnley Hall, Norfolk. A disease of the heart had of late greatly reduced his strength, and warned his friends of approaching death. He was in the 78th year of his age, having been born in January 1777.

Mr. Hume was a native of Montrose. His father was the master of a coasting vessel trading from that town. Mrs. Hume was early left a widow, with a large family. To assist in their maintenance, she set up a retail crockery shop, and is said also to have made several voyages in the trading vessel, herself undertaking the nautical as well as commercial direction. Her youngest son, Joseph, obtained only an elementary education. Reading, writing, "accounts," and a smattering of Scotch Latinity constituted the sum total of his "schooling." About the age of thirteen he was placed apprentice to a surgeon-apothecary of Montrose, and remained with his master about three years. His next step in life transferred him to Edinburgh as a medical student, in 1793; and in 1796 he was admitted to the Edinburgh College of Surgeons. In the following year he travelled Southward, and passed the London College of Surgeons as surgeon of an Indiaman. In that ship he voyaged to India and back; and in 1799 he was elected full assistant-surgeon, on the nomination of their Chairman, Mr. J. Bosanquet, and reported for the ship Houghton, Presidency of Bengal. On his way out in this ship, the purser died, and Joseph Hume volunteered to fill his place. He performed the duties so well that the captain and passengers gave him a public testimonial on landing at Calcutta. The native languages and religions were then little studied by the Company's servants; but Mr. Assistant-Surgeon Hume mastered both. In 1802 the Mahratta war broke out. It was found that the gunpowder in store was useless from damp; Mr. Hume, regimental surgeon, restored it to efficiency. Major-General Powell wanted an interpreter, and he selected Mr. Hume. In this war he seems to have performed all kinds of useful services,—filling important posts, not only in the medical department, but in the offices of Paymaster and Postmaster of the forces, in the prize-agencies and the commissariat. So recently as the late Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Military, Ordnance, and Commissariat Expenditure, he astonished his colleagues by the intelligence and acuteness of his examination of witnesses. On some expression of surprise in the Committee, he observed, "You forget that I was once Commissary-General to an army of twelve thousand men in India." In India he thus gathered up a fortune of £30,000 or £40,000, with which he returned to England. But he did not sit still in the fruitless enjoyment of leisure. In 1809 he made a tour of the United Kingdom, visiting all the principal ports and

manufacturing towns; and as 'fact-hunting' was his pleasure, he devoted the greater portion of the years 1810 and 1811 to tours on the Continent, extending his travels to Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Greece, Egypt, the Ionian Isles, Sicily, Malta, Sardinia, &c.

The two ultimate objects of Joseph Hume, thus independent in circumstances, and in the prime of life, were the acquisition of seats in the East India Direction and in Parliament. We believe that at this period his political convictions and earlier associations had been those of a "Tory," but that home politics had been a secondary interest in his mind during his struggle in India for pecuniary independence. Certain it is that the future Radical first entered the House of Commons as a Tory. The borough of Weymouth and Melcombe-Regis was the cradle of our aspiring legislator. The patron of the borough and one of its members (Sir John Lowther Johnstone) having died, Mr. Hume succeeded to the vacant seat in January, 1812, the last session of the Parliament. A Scotch solicitor, trustee of the deceased baronet, "introduced" Mr. Hume to the constituency for a valuable consideration. Mr. Hume had bargained for a second return. The new member took his seat on the treasury bench, supporting the Perceval Administration. On the dissolution of Parliament the following autumn the patrons of the seat refused his re-election. The ex-member's reforming and progressive tendencies having broken out in occasional "visits to his constituents." Mr. Hume, we believe, on an arbitration, obtained some return-money for breach of the contract. It is by no means unlikely that this experience of the "borough system" opened the eyes of the Indian Reformer to the defects in the representation.

During his six years' exclusion from the House of Commons, till elected for Aberdeen in 1818, Mr. Hume was not idle. He was an active member of the Central Committee of the Lancastrian School system, and forming a friendship with the late Francis Place, of Westminster, he became deeply interested in the promotion of the moral and intellectual interests of the working classes, and in the improvement of their physical condition. In 1818 he was invited to stand for the Aberdeen district of burghs, and the impression which he made upon a part of the influential politicians of the district assembled to meet him at the seat of Mr. Maule (afterwards Lord Panmure) was a foreshadowing of his Parliamentary career. During dinner someone spoke eulogistically of Sir Francis Burdett. "Sir Francis," observed Mr. Hume, "speaks big, but what has he done?" The whole of the constituency did not exceed 100 persons, but Mr. Hume, aided by the few liberal friends of the neighbourhood, beat the patrons.

Mr. Hume's natural ambition for a seat in the East India Direction was not equally gratified; his exposure of Indian abuses in each periodical meeting of the Proprietary incensing the Directory against him. But his canvass, by one of the fortunate accidents of life, was destined to have great influence on his further prosperity and happiness. On one occasion Mr. Hume had obtained access to a proprietor enjoying four votes—a gentleman of great influence, but of peculiar aversion to canvassers for the Direction—the late Mr. Burnley, of Guilford-street. Nevertheless, Mr. Hume effected his visit, and his forcible representation of Indian abuses, and of the efficacy of his curative prescriptions, if elected a Director, and of the consequent advantages to stockholders, established him in the good graces of the old gentleman, and what was of more value, in those of the daughter. Although he failed to force the India-house, he won and wedded the lady—the amiable and excellent Mrs. Hume, to whom has lately been made a flattering testimonial of her husband's position in the House of Commons.

In 1830, Mr. Hume relinquished the Scotch burghs, being returned with the late Mr. Byng, unopposed, for Middlesex. He continued to sit for the metropolitan county till the dissolution of 1837, when in July, Colonel Wood defeated him by a small majority. Mr. O'Connell in the same month returned him for Kilkeny. In the new Parliament of 1841, Mr. Hume was again defeated at Leeds. In 1842, on the retirement of Mr. Chalmers from Montrose, Mr. Hume returned to his old political love, and he has died in the service of his fellow-townsmen.

How are we to characterize or even note the Herculean labours of this prodigy in representative government? [exclaims the *Times*]. It is impossible, within the limits of volumes, to record his innumerable speeches in Parliament, his motions, his returns, his select committees, his reports, his personal and party contests in the House of Commons, much less his various agitations out of doors. His speeches alone, during thirty-seven years, occupy volumes of *Hansard*. In some, Mr. Hume's speeches occur in 150 pages, on various political and legislative questions. We cannot attempt even an analysis of the chief subjects of his active and busy discussion. He is the modern Prynne, who defies all reprint, comment or review. In this age of levelling legislation on social interests he was always "on his legs." He spoke oftener, and frequently made longer speeches, than any other member of the House of Commons. In the Court of Directors and in Parliament he stood for many years almost alone, contending for the freedom of trade against the East India monopoly. He proposed sweeping and repeated plans of reform of the army, navy, and ordnance, and of almost every civil department, of the Established Churches and Ecclesiastical Courts, of the civil and criminal laws, of the system of public accounts, of general taxation, duties, and customs. He early advocated the abolition of military flogging, naval imprisonment, and imprisonment for debt. He carried, almost single-handed, the repeal of the old Combination-laws, the prohibition of the export of machinery, and the act preventing workmen going abroad. He led forlorn hopes against Colonial abuses, against town and country municipal self-elected Government, election expenses, the licensing systems, the duties on paper, print, "on tea, tobacco, and snuff." He assaulted and carried by storm Orange Lodges and close vestries, to say nothing of his aid of Catholic Emancipation, the repeal of the Test and Corporation Act and the Reform Acts of 1832. He was the unrelenting persecutor

of sinecurists, drones, and old men pretending to do the work of the young in the State. Out of doors he was a member of every Liberal and Radical club and association. He occupied for years the throne at the old Crown and Anchor Tavern, in Palace Yard, and in Covent Garden meetings.

POLITICAL MEETINGS.

Lord Stanley, at a meeting specially called for the purpose by his own desire, addressed a political lecture to his constituents at Lynn-Regis, a few days ago, on the state of affairs in general since Lord Aberdeen entered on the duties of office; not forgetting to enumerate the legislative failures of last year. He remarked also on the fact that the admission of Dissenters to the University of Oxford had been carried by a union of Liberal and Conservative members; and that Government succeeded with their India bill because the House of Commons took little interest in the subject, but that he was more satisfied than ever that the subject should have been postponed. Upon his vote for the abolition of Church-rates he dwelt with manifest relish, and predicted that "the principle of self-support in matters of religion" will be the principle of the next generation. On the topic of national education he remarked, that parties seem drawing nearer to one another; and he laid down three principles as grounds for a satisfactory compromise,—first, the recognition and the inclusion of existing schools; secondly, that religious instruction shall everywhere be offered, but everywhere be made optional; and thirdly, by recognizing the right of self-government. Touching on "Parliamentary reform," he expressed an opinion that the extension of the suffrage is "a question of degree and time;" he said he was ready to deal with small constituencies, which favour corruption, so as to distribute the franchise more equally over the country. At length touching on the war, Lord Stanley was at pains to make out that the Emperor of Russia has been always anxious to avoid a war with England; that he had been led to believe England and France could never become cordial allies; that he had been led to believe, by the language of the late Government and its supporters, that war was deprecated here, and that Turkey could not be saved; and that he thought we were not in earnest, but intended to limit ourselves to a protest. Russia had no intention to conquer Turkey; and if the quarrel has arisen out of mutual misunderstanding, out of cross-purposes among the Governments, Lord Stanley sees no reason why we should not secure an honourable peace, nor why, if secured now, it would be a mere truce. He is for a "vigorous prosecution of the war, as leading to a speedy peace; and moderate terms of peace, as tending to put a speedier end to war"; more especially because, with our great debt, and the facilities for emigration, our resources are not inexhaustible. He is for an irresistible display of power, "because we cannot afford a long war." In dealing with the conduct of the war and its disasters, Lord Stanley exonerated our system of Parliamentary government from all blame, but our military organization only partially; and threw the weight of his censure upon the late Ministry.

Mr. Lowe addressed his constituents on Tuesday, in the new Music Hall, at Kidderminster. He explained that he had, six weeks after entering Parliament, accepted office, because he had helped to win the battle, and desired to acquire some official experience; and he believed that he had assisted Sir Charles Wood in laying the foundations of the greatest benefits for India. He had ceased to hold office, because he had held it long enough for the purpose for which he took it—to gain an insight into official life, and to fit himself for any higher office hereafter; and because he was not any longer disposed to surrender his free speech as an independent member. He took pains to explain to the meeting, in extenuation of some of his votes that might not have pleased them, and did not altogether please himself, that when a man joins a Government he is expected to sacrifice his individual prejudices to general duty. He would not have joined the Aberdeen Government had he not felt confidence in its members.

During the session of 1853, I was called on, on one occasion, to vote against the admission of Dissenters to the Universities—those seats of learning which I have the strongest conviction present in my mind should be open to all, and on another occasion to resist a bill for the abolition of Church-rates, brought in by Sir William Clay, which I thought a wise, right, and beneficial measure. (Hear, hear.) The course which I took, after mature consideration, was this—I did not think it consistent with my duty to my constituents and with my personal honour to vote in the manner Government wished, nor did I think it my duty, as a member of the Government, to vote against them. I, therefore, abstained from voting on those questions. If there is any gentleman dissatisfied with my conduct in this respect, I think he ought to have taken objection to my taking office at all.

Mr. Lowe cordially approved of the war. Lord Aberdeen's Government had met with great success in pacific times, but the same success did not attend them in war. "The expedition to the Crimea was well-planned, and sent forth with men and appliances adequate to the execution of its object." All went well as far as the battle of the Alma; but after that battle, instead of marching directly to Sebastopol—instead of entering it on the 21st or 22nd of September—the Generals were sluggish and neglected the opportunity. From that time there has been nothing but "blunder, mismanagement, and incapacity, of which none of us can speak with patience." "The General has not shown the activity and zeal we had a right to expect;" and when we compare what he has done with what Sir Arthur Wellesley did when he had hardly a commissariat, no waggon-train, and was badly supplied with money, we must be struck by the humiliating contrast. The abuse of public patronage has been the vice of the campaign. "Merit is not promoted; the

only thing considered is personal connexion and favour." The Emperor of Russia can fill up offices as he pleases, recall generals, and punish wrongdoers without remorse; but in our country the statesmen in whose hands the gift of these offices is look rather to their own profits or that of their friends, or their Parliamentary influence, than to the interests of the people. There is no use in talking of any kind of reform till you get this altered. Mr. Lowe objected to the remedy proposed by Parliament, the inquiry, and the remedy applied by the Government—commissions to the Crimea. His remedies would be, first, the recall of Lord Raglan. "But there was a reason which he believed operated with the Government to prevent the recall of Lord Raglan, and no doubt it was an important one; it was that he had acted throughout most harmoniously with our gallant allies, and had never by any intemperate sally or unnecessary opposition interrupted the excellent terms on which they had acted with us during this campaign." His second remedy would be the reconstitution of our military system, so that merit shall be the road to promotion. But that is a question for the constituencies. "They must be content that their Members should cease to distribute Parliamentary patronage among them with both hands. Members must cease to sell themselves to Government for the sake of this patronage; and Ministers must give up this system also; because, until merit is the only avenue to the public offices, we are fighting with a leaden sword against a man who uses a steel one. If we had a spark of true greatness and patriotism left, we should immediately make this change; seeing that the position, honour, and perhaps the existence of the country, depended upon it." Finally, he would support the Government. Lord Palmerston's name is a pledge of our determination to resist Russia, and his fall would be regarded as the triumph of the principles of the Peace party.

The *Times*, generally averse to platform demonstration, has recently made several appeals for an expression of public opinion respecting the war. The response is now being given. On Wednesday, the inhabitants of Marylebone met in public meeting, and were addressed by Mr. Lewis, Mr. Nicholas, Mr. Jacob Bell, Mr. Mowatt, M.P. and others. The assent of the meeting was asked and obtained to this resolution—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the great sufferings and disasters to which the English army in the Crimea has been exposed imperatively call for a searching investigation into the causes and defects of the system under which such misfortunes have occurred; that, the House of Commons having, in answer to the unanimous call of the nation, voted by a large majority in favour of a committee of inquiry of that House, this meeting earnestly deprecates the reversal of such vote by any means, direct or indirect, and calls upon the Government and the House of Commons, as an act of justice to those who have suffered such unparalleled privations and distresses, to institute, by means of a fair and impartial committee, an immediate, honest, and vigorous inquiry.

Another resolution was carried, promising the support of the country to any Ministry that will honestly reform abuses, and conduct the war with unflinching energy and vigour. A petition is also to be presented to Parliament; for "the public-spirited men of Marylebone" are convinced, said Mr. Lewis, that "the time has arrived" to speak out.—On Thursday evening, a great meeting held at the Town Hall, Birmingham, under the presidency of the Mayor, adopted a memorial to Parliament, urging the necessity of a full and searching inquiry into the causes of the disasters in the Crimea, and protesting against the system of purchasing commissions and promotions. The meeting was large, and in its tone determined. Between 6,000 and 7,000 persons were present.—On Thursday, a public meeting, convened by requisition, was held in the Guildhall, Newcastle, for the purpose of considering the present system of purchasing commissions in the army (the Mayor presiding). The attendance was numerous, and the business was conducted with great spirit and unanimity. Mr. Crawshaw moved that the present system of promotion in the army by purchase, was false in principle, injurious to the public service, and alike unjust to the regimental officer and private soldier. Mr. Parker, a working man, and formerly a soldier, seconded the motion. Mr. Welford, ironmonger, proposed a resolution to the effect that merit only was the true basis of promotion in the army. Another motion relative to the flogging, having been agreed to, Mr. Newton proposed and Mr. Cathrall seconded that a petition founded on the resolutions be presented to Parliament, and that Mr. Layard be requested to present it. Petitions in a similar spirit have been adopted at Chesterfield.—Mr. G. Thompson, formerly M. P. for the Tower Hamlets, has been lecturing in various towns of the manufacturing districts, on "the War; its Antecedents, Origin, Results, and Probable Issues." He was very well received in the Friends' Meeting House, at Manchester, but was defeated at Wakefield on Wednesday. At the conclusion of Mr. Thompson's address, Councillor Serle, proposed the following resolution:—

That this meeting is of opinion that the war with Russia ought to be carried on with vigour until an honourable peace can be obtained, and that no terms ought to be agreed to which do not recognise the destruction of Sebastopol, and the free navigation of the Danube and the Black Sea.

Mr. T. Micklethwaite, in supporting the resolution, designated the lecturer as a paid itinerant of the Peace Society. Mr. Thompson, in reply to the statements of Mr. Micklethwaite, challenged him to a public discussion on the merits of the disputed question, which Mr. Micklethwaite accepted. The resolution was carried, three-fourths of the assembly voting for it.

TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.

The annual meeting of the Society for Promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge was held in the large room of Exeter-hall, on Wednesday evening. There was a very crowded attendance.

The Right Hon. MILNER GIBSON, who occupied

the chair, explained that that society had met, according to custom, in order to give an account of its stewardship. The opponents of all taxes on knowledge began by setting four different objects before themselves, viz.:—the repeal of the duty on foreign books, the repeal of the excise duty on paper, the abolition of the newspaper stamp, together with the security system, and all restrictions upon the press, excepting those imposed by the law of libel, and the abolition of the impost on advertisements. They had already succeeded in achieving the last of these objects, and thereby conferred considerable advantage upon the public, but the full benefit of that remission could not be secured until the whole of the complex and obnoxious system with which the tax on advertisements had once been interwoven had been thoroughly swept away. He then proceeded to refute the bill brought in by Mr. Gladstone—to abolish the compulsory stamp on newspapers, and entitle all printed matter up to the weight of four ounces to be transmitted by post at the charge of one penny. The measure would also abrogate the security system, and all those odious gagging statutes passed in the dark days of a Castleburgh Administration, and known by the name of the "Six Acts." It likewise contained a concession to the vested interests of the existing newspapers—namely, the right of retransmission through the post during a period of seven days after publication, without any additional charge, for such portion of their impression as they chose to print on stamped paper; and this privilege was to be continued for a period of ten years to one metropolitan journal, which they all knew exceeded the prescribed weight of four ounces. Mr. Gladstone's bill, instead of inflicting an injury, would confer a positive boon on the established press; and he could only account for their opposition to the measure on the supposition that they apprehended the competition of penny newspapers. That association wished to see daily newspapers brought within the reach of the humblest classes of the community, and not confined to the affluent.

The financial report of the society having been read by the Secretary,

Dr. JOHN WATTS moved the first resolution, which was as follows:—

That the paper duty is a tax on knowledge; that by hindering the use of new raw materials, it limits the supply and enhances the price of paper, and thus restricts the field for the employment of capital and labour; and that the increased expenditure of the country imperatively demands that a less injurious mode of raising money be resorted to than an excise duty on so important a manufacture.

Mr. A. PELLATT, M.P., seconded the resolution, and expressed his conviction, after 25 years' experience of the practical working of the excise laws, that it was the greatest curse that could possibly befall the manufacturer to be subjected to the galling and vexatious bondage of the Inland Revenue Board.

Mr. CORDEN, M.P., moved the second resolution:—That this meeting has heard with satisfaction that a bill was introduced last night by the Government to abolish the compulsory newspaper stamp and the security system, and to admit all printed matter to a cheap rate of postage.

He commenced by paying a compliment to Mr. Gladstone, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, and said that if our statesmen were to go on slaying themselves and destroying each other in that way, we must soon resort to a Foreign Enlistment Act to secure a Ministry. (Laughter.) As to the bill more immediately before them, he, for one, would not quarrel with the few compromises and temporary conditions that were comprised in its provisions. He cared not whether the carriage of half an ounce more or less for a period of 10 years was allowed to an existing newspaper, so long as the main object of that association was gained; and, indeed, he would be glad to buy off the opposition of a powerful journal upon these terms. It was a delusion to suppose that the bill would seriously diminish the privilege of repeated free transmission of newspapers through the post now enjoyed, because the man who paid 5d. for a paper bought it not for himself only, but for the use of several other persons, residing at a distance from him, and who had at present to wait three or four days for the news; whereas the cheaper newspapers that would be started under the new regime would be immediately accessible to everybody, and every man could afford to have his penny newspaper for himself. Nobody in America, where the press was thoroughly popularized, would buy a newspaper a day old at any price, and with a free press in this country no intelligent American would be startled by seeing any such notice in the shop windows as "yesterday's *Times* at half price." In New York the carpenter, the bricklayer, and the shipbuilder had his daily newspaper brought as regularly to his door as had our great merchants and bankers in Lombard-street; and after the penny stamp was remitted he believed the *Times* would enjoy as great a circulation as it did now, because there would always be a demand among the wealthier and more limited classes for the high-priced papers; and it would be no injury to those papers if a cheaper article was provided for a larger class of readers who were not in the habit of reading a daily paper at all, but who, if their taste were first cultivated, might by and by aspire to peruse the dearer and better journals. He was not particularly thin-skinned, and, next to the late Mr. O'Connell, he was, perhaps, "the best abused" man in the country; and yet, he could say that in proportion to the efforts he had made to liberate the press from the fiscal burdens which weighed it down was his desire to see that free and fearless criticism of the conduct of public men, and of public measures to which he was absurdly charged with being inimical. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BRIGHT, M.P., in seconding the resolution, treated the question of the taxation upon newspapers in a commercial point of view. The material on which the *Times* of yesterday, without the supplement, was printed, before the rise in the price of paper, would, he said, have cost three farthings, and the paper duty amounted to another farthing, or equal to

33 percent. on the original value of the paper. To this 1d. had to be added for the stamp, raising the taxation upon the original three farthings to 166 percent. This was a pressure of taxation upon an article of commerce which was hardly paralleled by the imposts levied on other manufactures. Again, there was no trade in which there were so many disastrous failures as in that of newspapers, for there were thousands of suppressed editors in this country if they could only find them out; and the object of that association was to call away many a man gifted with heart and brains for instructing his fellow men from a badly paid industry, and place him on a high and broad platform, where he could be seen and heard, and where no Chancellor of the Exchequer or Board of Inland Revenue could crush his efforts to instruct his countrymen. By the measures they advocated, they were doing more than could be accomplished by any other means to incorporate the great body of our working classes with the mind, intellect, progress, and life of the country, and to give a wider power and wiser direction to public opinion than we had witnessed in past times. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. G. DAWSON, M.A., supported the resolution in a humorous speech, in which he denied that the press was either "ribald" or venal. He considered it as unjust to charge the newspapers with supporting the war because it brought them more frequence, as it would be to accuse the grocer of advocating an inglorious peace because it enabled him to sell more tea and sugar. Neither was he very fond of the American newspapers, the type of which was very bad, and its matter just now very disgusting, because it laughed at England, the old baldheaded dad, from which the child had derived all the good it possessed, and all its Saxon bone and muscle and sinew. He advocated the freedom of the press, because it would tend to make every man a politician, and put an end to the rule of routine and red-tape which has just now brought the country so low in the eyes of the world. (Cheers.)

The second resolution having been put and carried unanimously, a vote of thanks was then passed to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

We have received a letter from our correspondent at Adelaide, dated October 28, 1854, for a portion of which only we have room. There have been some considerable disputes between employer and employed as to the rate of wages.

Hundreds or even thousands of employers are only waiting to see wages and prices of other articles reduced to something like a reasonable and equitable point, and they will employ every man on our shores. You may be surprised when I tell you that many persons feel it a delicate and invidious task to offer a reduced wage to colonial labourers. The relation between employer and employed has been newly adjusted by the gold discovery. Equality has become a daring intruder among us, and plebeian impertinence the great giant evil of the country. Happily for the colony at large, this state of things is destined to an early change. A considerable addition has been made to our population since my last letter—one thousand have arrived this very week, and if the bulk of them will only be prevailed upon to disseminate in the country, in a few weeks, or even days, they will be comfortably provided for. But it is not an easy, nor always a practicable thing to shift the population so as to suit the exigencies of the colony. It is equally difficult to silence the clamours and misrepresentations of some who prefer a life of almost vagrancy and want in the metropolis to a fair wage in the country.

Respecting the appointment of Mr. Francis Lawley to the Governorship of South Australia, news of which had just arrived, our correspondent says, that it had created "intense disgust." He asks us to state the fact that the denizens of that colony cannot allow any man to be palmed off upon them who cannot bring a decent character and a fair share of general ability for so high a position. No other man will find a home or a welcome there.

I remember to have read—I think in the London Cyclopædia—of that *debauchee*, Colonel Daniel Park, who received the governorship of the Leeward Isles. As he was a partially reclaimed character on receiving the appointment, and a pet of the British Government, he was received with great delight, and expected to prove a friend to the interests of every man. But as his reformation was spurious, he soon returned to his old habit, and after creating many enormous evils, he provoked the colonists to seek and effect his destruction. They went *en masse* against him and tore him into a thousand pieces. I do not imply that Master Lawley might meet with a similar fate, but I assert that the South Australian public do not lack the energy and hardihood which make the populace of a country the terror of a weak, or a worthless supreme ruler. Our Legislative Council have petitioned her Majesty on this subject, and we hope her advisers will be considerate enough to make that appointment which will promise to work well. I can assure you that many of the colonists feel very indignant on this subject, and if they could speak in high places, they would thunder out their wishes in no measured terms.

We have one very gratifying fact to think upon in the midst of our various excitements. The nation progresses in numbers, prosperity, and improvement. The expenditure during the quarter ending September 30th, of this year, was £145,193 5s. 3d., while the revenue amounted to £176,052 9s. 7d. The customs revenue exceeded that of the previous quarter by £7,993. The sum of £45,250 has been spent for the City and Port Railway, and £15,000 set apart as inter-

est and repayment fund on the railway bonds; £20,000 have been devoted to roads and bridges. These are signs of progress, and promise an equally corresponding progress during the future. It is feared that the remarkably dry season through which we have passed will materially diminish our general prosperity. The whole of our vegetation has been excessively light. Corn and hay will therefore command, during another year, the present high rates; and potatoes, cabbage, and every other vegetable will range at almost unprecedented prices. Potatoes are now commanding £30 per ton, and cannot be grown this year but in very favoured spots. This state of things will be an evil chiefly to the newly arrived emigrants. Every old colonist almost is prepared for a visitation of this sort, but it is painful when the impoverished new arrival has to exhaust all his funds to sustain his life during the first few weeks of his colonial career.

It is feared the present dry season will oblige the squatters to send their wool to England in grease. The present price of this export is rather discouraging, and the probability is it will get worse. But the squatter cannot complain at the price of his mutton, for that is still four times as dear as I have known it here within the last five years. Beef, too, still commands unprecedented prices. Our land sales are still the most popular gatherings we have to witness, and are viewed by the artisan class as an indirect cause of their diminished wage. This weekly exchange of Crown lands and private gold is a sign of progress rather than the reverse. The working classes have petitioned the Council to suspend immigration for six months, but the Council and four-fifths of the leading colonists believe the land sales have made this colony attain to her present position. Our great want, as expressed in a former part of this letter, is the distribution of all new arrivals throughout the entire province.

With respect to imported goods, the price is nominal. English houses of trade must be cautious in remitting goods without order. Many of our warehouses are crammed already with unsaleable articles. I have no room for making more than the briefest allusions to our banking and mining statistics. Both are flourishing; and the renowned Burra Burra promises more brilliant developments than ever. For some weeks past, the colonists have been studying military tactics, and now the volunteers are about to be drilled in readiness to give the Russians a gentlemanly reception. I cannot report a large amount of military ardour among us, for the fact is there is scarcely a man in this country who is apprehensive of any invasion. At any rate, we hope Sir Charles Napier will blockade the Muscovite tyrant until November relieves him from watching the foe, and that the present restlessness and anxiety of Europe will not be allowed to settle down into quietude until Hungary and Poland recover their nationalities and the Czar curtailed of his ill gotten huge dominions. Almost every man among us who pretends to feel an interest in this subject, looks with intense expectancy to every mail for the gratifying intelligence that Providence has crippled the wicked invader of the peace and prosperity of Europe.

BREAD RIOTS AND THE WEATHER.

There were serious riots at the East End of London on Wednesday and Thursday. Tens of thousands of the poor were deprived of employment by the severity of the weather, especially in all vocations connected with the river. Measures were taken by the Guardians and Police Magistrates to supply the destitute at least with food; but the number of applicants was so great, that the officers could not relieve them fast enough. Mobs collected, under the leadership, for the most part, of stalwart and turbulent Irishmen; who, loudly demanding "bread," paraded the streets, and pillaged the shops, not only of food, but of money. In this alarming state of things, most of the shops were shut; and a kind of terror prevailed from Whitechapel to Hackney. The police, however, regardless of numbers, rushed upon the ringleaders and arrested many. All day on Thursday, the magistrates in Stepney, Worship-street, and Southwark—for there was some rioting in Bermondsey—were engaged in dealing with the fellows under arrest, and several were committed for trial. They also received depositions from the inhabitants asking for protection, begging that special constables might be sworn in. The Thames Police Magistrate declined to grant the latter request; but Superintendent Howie was present, and assured the applicants that he had a large and increasing force at his disposal, and that he would be able to maintain order. It was evident that the example of Liverpool had not been without effect, for it was spoken of with zest by the rioters.

On Friday and Saturday, gangs of men, varying in number and character, perambulated the City, and in the more public thoroughfares visited the wealthiest of the tradespeople with demands for food and money. Their requests in some instances were granted; refusal of compliance resulted in no offers of violence.

Subscriptions in aid of the sufferers were opened in various directions. The Corporation of London on Thursday voted £1,000, the Dock Companies have subscribed liberally, and on the Stock Exchange upwards of £300 was collected. It is stated that for some days, not fewer than 50,000 men have been subsisting on the scanty outdoor relief doled out by the parishes and unions.

Up to near the end of last week the frost continued. On Friday there was a fall of snow, and at least three parts of the river were frozen over, and neither steamer nor small craft could be navigated either up or down. But relief has come—a rapid thaw, with a south-westerly wind, was hailed by thousands of the industrious classes in the metropolis last Saturday morning. Labourers were at once set to work to demolish the ice in the basins of the several docks in the Thames, in order, if possible, to get the ships clear. On Sunday the thaw was more decided, and the snow and ice which

had accumulated in the thoroughfares disappeared. On Saturday night rain fell for two or three hours and again on Sunday. On Monday a drizzle and fog succeeded to the hard frost. Yesterday the Thames had quite lost its arctic aspect. The masses of ice had almost entirely disappeared and ships were once more free. Navigation has been resumed, and the dock labourers are again in active employ. Many colliers reached the Pool yesterday, and a great number of the coal-whippers will be at once set to work.

Correspondence from the country shows that the thaw is general, and the relief which it will give to hundreds of thousands of labourers and artisans, upon whom the frost had enforced idleness, may be regarded as a national benefit.

There has also been a thaw at Paris. The roads all round the capital are in a dreadful state, and the communication will be for some days very difficult. At Calais, the severe cold had frozen the entrance of the port, and the north-easterly winds which have prevailed since the frost set in drove an immense quantity of ice on the beach.

Advices from Elsinore of the 14th inst., describing the severity of the weather, state that a perfect communication between Denmark and Sweden had been formed by the ice, and that hundreds of Swedes had just come over.

The weather in the United States has also been intensely cold. That respectable gentleman "the oldest inhabitant" declares he never knew a colder season. The highest point of the thermometer on one day was only 7° above zero.

Foreign and Colonial News.

FRANCE.

Some Government subordinates in Paris have shown a zeal beyond discretion. On Wednesday M. Berryer was presented to the French Academy and made a speech, which was forbidden publication in the journals. The *Presse* had previously struck off 5,000 copies of the first half. The speech contains an allusion to the degradation of the Roman people under the Lower Empire, and this is supposed to be the key to the unexpected blow. The editors of the newspapers subsequently were informed that they were at full liberty to publish it or not as they thought fit, "seeing that the existence of the Empire was not considered in danger from the speech, and that both could co-exist." Most of the papers availed themselves of the permission. The original order emanated from the subordinate authorities; the counter order is attributed to a higher personage.

The *Sicile* has been seized for a *feuilleton* by Eugene Sue, describing an orgie at the Maison Dorée as a type of the luxury officially called prosperity, calling it Belshazzar's Feast, and demanding when we shall read "Mene, Tekel, Upharsin?"

The *Sicile* announces that M. Dupont (de l'Eure) is so dangerously ill as to leave scarcely any hope of his recovery.

M. Thiers met with a disagreeable accident on Wednesday afternoon. As he was leaving his own door he slipped on the frozen ice, fell, and broke his wrist. The pain was intense at first; no fever, however, set in, and he is reported to be going on well. The calls at his house have been most numerous since the news of the accident was known.

Lord John Russell has had two audiences of the Emperor, and left on Saturday for Brussels.

The *Moniteur* of Tuesday contained a report to the Emperor by M. Magne, the new Minister of Finance. It announces the reimposition of the duties on commercial receipts and obligations as they existed before the law of the 7th August, 1850; and states that with this aid there will be a surplus of 4,000,000 francs.

AMERICA.

The proceedings in Congress had been of some little interest. In the United States senate a resolution had been adopted, directing the post-office committee to report how much money the Collins steamships have received to the present date, in freight and passengers. The resolution is considered ominous of a withdrawal of the subsidy given to those steamers. A debate had taken place on the senatorial bill for the construction of a telegraph line to the Pacific, but no action was come to in the Senate; but in the House of Representatives, the bill was passed by a vote of 110 against 70. It was agreed to increase the regular force of the army by adding two regiments of cavalry, and two of infantry; 2,500,000 dollars being appropriated to defray the expense. A curious discussion took place on the subject of a renewal of Colonel Colt's patent for revolvers; the points at issue being whether Colt had bribed certain members of the House, and whether or not he was drunk when he did so. This edifying inquiry is adjourned. A grant of 300,000 dollars was voted to improve the navigation of the mouths of the Mississippi. A resolution was adopted to lay on the table all official documents touching the relations of France and Spain with Cuba and the United States. Mr. Lane, ex-governor of Oregon, stigmatized Mr. Farley as "a liar—a d—d liar." A fight was on the point of ensuing, when the serjeant-at-arms appeared and restored order.

The much talked of "Kinney expedition" begins to lose its interest. The statement that the President is about to prohibit its departure by proclamation, is discredited.

Government has ordered a new exploration of the route to the Pacific. The exploring party is to number 500 men. Their main object is to ascertain whether artesian wells can be made to supply water at certain distances across the desert.

From the Sandwich Islands the news is interesting. King Kamehameha the Third's death is confirmed. He is succeeded by his nephew, Prince Liholiho, a

young man of some education, who assumes the title Kamehameha IV.

Writing on the 9th inst., the *Times* New York correspondent says:—"The great political event of the week is the re-election yesterday of Mr. Seward as senator in Congress from the State of New York. The result gives a new strength to the north, and secures for it a rallying point in the Senate for six years to come. It is also the most decided check that the native American party has yet received. Governor Seward has always been an advocate of the policy of welcoming and conciliating foreigners, and as such was particularly offensive to the more ultra Know-nothings. Next in importance to the return of Governor Seward is the election of Mr. Wilson as senator from Massachusetts. This gentleman, strangely enough returned by the same Know-nothing party that would have defeated Governor Seward, is an ultra anti-slavery man, pledged to the policy and measures of that party in their fullest extent. Thus we see the sentiment of hostility to slavery increase in the north, in spite of all efforts to repress it. When General Taylor was elected President, in 1848, there was no member of the Senate especially elected on anti-slavery grounds. All were Whigs or Democrats. Now, aside from Whig members with anti-slavery tendencies, there are eight gentlemen chosen, irrespective of old party ties, solely on the ground of hostility to slavery.

A new liquor law has been laid before the Special Temperance Committee of the Maine Legislature, by Neal Dow, which is more stringent in its action, if possible, than the existing Maine law. The Bill provides that, for selling liquor in violation of the provisions of the Act, a fine of 50 dollars and imprisonment in the county gaol for four months shall be inflicted for the first offence; for the second, a fine of 50 dollars and six months imprisonment; and for the third, a fine of 100 dollars and one year in the State prison. Persons intoxicated are obliged to disclose where they obtained their liquor, under penalty of going to the House of Correction. No action is to hold against any officer for seizing and destroying liquor, where the warrant is issued by a competent court. Express men and railroad and steamboat companies who convey liquor, except according to the law, are to be fined for the first two offences, and imprisoned one month for the third. It is thought the Bill will be adopted by the Committee, but there is some doubt as to the action of the House.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The obsequies of the Duke of Genoa were performed at Turin on the 14th, with military honours; a vast concourse of the people assembled at the sepulture of the beloved prince.

The Governor-General of India has determined that the heirs of all Native Princes shall acquire a knowledge of the English language, at the nearest Government school to their residences.

It is proposed to extend the electric telegraph from Piedmont along the coasts of the Italian peninsula to Naples, thence across the land to the Adriatic, and by submarine wires to Constantinople. The director of the Piedmontese telegraphs has gone to Modena and Florence to further the project.

The French Government have commenced legal proceedings in Brussels against the publishers of a pamphlet "On the Conduct of the War in the East; Expedition to the Crimea; Memoir addressed to the Government of his Majesty the Emperor Napoleon III. By a General Officer." It is believed to be the joint production of Prince Napoleon and M. Girardin.

M. Mazzini, in an address to Count Cavour, strongly condemns the adhesion of Sardinia to the treaty of December 2, as in fact a treaty of alliance with Austria—a step entirely dictated by fear.—"Side by side with Austrian battalions, should the course of war require it, Piedmontese soldiers will fight the battles of Mahomedanism. The tri-colour of Italy will wave over the same fields of battle, in fraternal harmony, and in unity of design, with the black and yellow flag of Austria, which now crowns the fortresses where the Italian prisoners of Austria are beaten and killed.

The moral abdication of the only principle upon which Italian hopes were still resting, is accomplished without limitation or reserve. If the national party, the party which derives its inspirations, its duties, its rights, its aim, and its power of execution from the heart of the country alone, if this party does not find at once united under its banner all who really love Italy, if it does not reply with energetic facts and universal consent to the royal declaration, the generation now peopling our country is incapable, condemned to absurd illusions, unworthy alike of country and liberty."

Court, Personal, and Official News.

A party of invalids, twenty-six in number, of the Coldstream Regiment of Guards, wounded at Alma, Inkermann, and during the siege operations before Sebastopol, were inspected by the Queen on Thursday afternoon, in Buckingham Palace. The Queen was accompanied by the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary, and also by the elder Princes of the Royal Family. On Friday some of the invalids of the Scots Fusiliers were also inspected. Prince Albert and his two eldest sons have several times skated on the ice in the waters in Buckingham Palace Gardens—the Queen looking on. Her Majesty has also driven out in a sledge. The visitors at the Palace have included the Duke of Cambridge, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Ashburton, Major-General Bentinck, the French Ambassador, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earl of Derby, the Earl of Carlisle, Viscount Mahon, the Bishop of London, and Vice-Admiral Deans Dundas.

Sir Henry Ward is appointed Governor of the island of Ceylon.

It is stated that the Hon. Captain Gordon, son to Lord Aberdeen, will shortly cease to be Deputy Quartermaster-General in the East.

The Queen has given £100 towards the erection of a girls' school for the children of mechanics, artisans, and upper class of labourers in and near Windsor, and £50 out of the royal bounty to Catherine Wilkinson, of Liverpool, to whom is owing the establishment of baths and wash-houses for the poor.

On Saturday the Bill to alter and amend the laws relating to the Stamp-duties on newspapers, the printing and publishing of newspapers, and the registration and giving securities in connexion therewith, and the regulation of the duties of postage on printed papers, was issued. There are eight clauses in the Bill, and a schedule annexed of the Acts to be repealed. The first section repeals the Stamp-duty on newspapers and the Acts relating to the printing and publishing of the same. The second has reference to the arrears of duty. The other sections state, that of printed books or papers the duty is to be one penny for four ounces. A relief is granted to existing newspapers by the post exceeding four ounces. Rates and duties are to be denoted by postage stamps. Newspapers and other printed papers sent by post not in conformity with the Act are to be charged the letter rates of postage. The day when the new law will come into operation is to be filled up in Committee.

Mr. Layard, M.P., has invited his constituents to meet him this day (Wednesday), at the County Hall, Aylesbury, as he "desires to explain his views and express his opinions upon the state of public affairs at this important crisis."

The vacancy in the House of Lords, caused by the death of the late Viscount Lorton, has been filled up by the election of the Earl of Portarlington to be the new representative peer for Ireland.

Mr. Layard has been put in nomination for the Rectorial Chair at Aberdeen; and his election is said to be pretty well assured.

General de La Marmora, the Commander-in-Chief of the Sardinian contingent to the Crimea, after a brief visit to Paris has arrived in London.

Mr. William Henry Roberts, of the Midland Circuit, is appointed Recorder of Grantham; Mr. George Boden, of the Midland Circuit, is appointed Recorder of Stamford; Mr. F. Walford, of the Home Circuit, is appointed Recorder of Saffron Walden.

Lord Ponsonby, a veteran diplomatist, who for many years represented the court of St. James's at the Porte, died on Thursday at Brighton, at the advanced age of 84.

Amongst recent deaths to be regretted, the name of Mr. C. Dod deserves prominent mention. This gentleman, once editor of a newspaper, was for twenty-three years head of the reporting staff of the *Times* newspaper and was well-known both in the gallery and House of Commons for his intelligence and urbanity. Under his guidance the debates in Parliament were presented for public perusal in the shape which the exigencies of a newspaper require; and as manager or superintendent of the corps of gentlemen who report these debates, he had a delicate and anxious duty to perform towards them, towards the public, and towards speakers in Parliament. To sharp powers of observing character, and long opportunities of studying politics and public men he added talents for literary composition. For very many years, and until disabled by illness, his pen had contributed to the *Times* many of the memoirs of distinguished persons who have died within the period. Rarely was it necessary to allow public curiosity to flag before all that a statesman had done to earn fame and honours was pictured to the world. In another capacity many thousands of the public know Mr. Dod's name, on the title-pages of the "Parliamentary Companion" and the "Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage," which publications wholly owe their origin to him.

Miscellaneous News.

Mr. J. T. Hammack calls attention, through the *Times*, to the proceedings of the Mormons, who are striving to supply their harems in America with young women from England; and they appear to be but too successful.

The plan adopted some six months ago for the payment of customs-duties at the London Customhouse by means of checks, which have first to be passed at the banks before the order is given for taking out goods, has proved a failure, from the trouble and delay. A new scheme is about to be tried. Special checks are to be printed by the Bank of England to be issued through bankers, which will be received at the Customhouse in payment of duties—the only purpose to which they can be applied.

At a meeting of the Court of Common Council on Thursday, the Lord Mayor read a letter from the Bishop of London, suggesting that a collection should be made for the suffering poor of London at this inclement season. Mr. Bower presented a petition from 1,600 destitute coalwhippers of the port of London, praying for relief; and moved that £500 be granted for that purpose. To this Alderman Kennedy moved an amendment, to the effect that £1,000 should be granted for the relief of the suffering poor of the City of London; and that the public generally be invited to contribute. This amendment was carried.

The jury who inquired into the cause of the accident at Islington, where seven persons perished by the fall of an old house, which had been rendered doubly insecure by parts of it having been removed to make a gateway under it, have returned this verdict—"The Jury are of opinion that the deceased persons lost their lives by the falling of a house from inadvertence; and that there was great and culpable neglect on the part of Mr. Henry Fownes, the owner of the house, in employing an incompetent person to repair

the premises without previously giving notice to the district surveyor. And the jury cannot separate without expressing their approbation of the conduct of the late Francis Stoker, Police-constable, who lost his life in endeavouring to save the lives of several others at the said period. They also wish to testify their admiration of the conduct of William Calvert in saving the lives of eight persons; and they regret the injuries sustained by the witnesses Jauncey and the Police-constable Best."

Literature.

The Doctrine of Sacrifice deduced from the Scriptures. A Series of Sermons, by FREDERIC DENISON MAURICE, M.A., Chaplain of Lincoln's Inn. Cambridge: Macmillan and Co.

It is due to ourselves, if to no one else, to explain the long delay which has taken place in our notice of this volume. Respect for Mr. Maurice, a deep interest in the subject, and a knowledge of the difficulties felt by many pious and thoughtful minds respecting it, combined to induce a more than ordinarily careful perusal and consideration of the work; and then arose the desire of entering into a very full review of its principal positions, and a critical examination of the Doctrine it professes to deduce from the Scriptures. Opportunity for the intended attempt has never occurred, and just now seems little likely to occur; so that we have reluctantly, at this late day, to offer to our readers such a notice of the contents of the book as might easily have been given in the first instance, but beyond which it is impossible for us adequately to proceed.

The historical development of the idea of Sacrifice, from the offerings of Cain and Abel down to the views of David on sacrifices and offerings, occupies the first six discourses. We do not agree with Mr. Maurice as to the *origin* of sacrifice; nor are we entirely at one with him as to its significance to the first offerers. With the unfolding of the *idea* as embodied in "the legal sacrifices" we are in agreement with him; as, also, we suppose most orthodox believers to be, having never met with a thinking man, or seen the writings of any theologian who is more than a superficial pretender, by whom a substantially different view is taken. Mr. Maurice will be glad to know that views on which he lays so much stress are commonly accepted and preached, out of his own church, if not in it. But our readers may judge whether we speak wisely and truly, from the following passages.

"The victim was taken to the door of the place, at which all Israelites had an equal right to appear; but the man who brought it laid his own hand upon the head of it. He signified that the act was his; that it expressed thoughts in his mind which no one else could know of. The crime he had done, or the disease that was preying on him, or the bitterness of spirit which he could not tell to another, might all be declared to the Searcher of Hearts: if he could not utter them, the act uttered them. He comes in his ignorance, believing there is One who knows him, and has hidden him come. . . . There was war in him; he needed peace. Some one was displeased with him; he desired to be reconciled.

"And the words are as precise and strong as they can be. 'It shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.' The reconciliation which he seeks he shall find—God will meet him there. God, who knows what he is,—what he is suffering,—what he has done,—who has appointed the conditions of his existence,—who sees exactly how he has used them or abused them,—to whom the past and present of his life are both open,—who has been making him aware of that in which he is wrong,—of that in which he is weak and is likely to be wrong,—the God from whom he is conscious of estrangement, with whom he is sure that he ought to be at one,—He takes away that which separates them. He accepts this sign of his submission. He restores him to his rights in the Divine society.

"The special office of the priest was, also, I think, very significant to him of the end for which he was appointed; He was to bring the blood, and to sprinkle it, &c. The blood, the Israelites had been told already, was the life, which they were not to eat, but to pour out like water.

"This blood, this life, was evidently the most sacred part of the service; it is referred to in every part of the institution of sacrifice; it is connected with purification. Yet it was not mixed with the rest of the offering; it was poured out about the altar, while the mere animal, the dead thing, was offered as a whole burnt sacrifice. I apprehend that there were lessons here never to be forgotten, concerning life and death; concerning the preciousness and dignity of life; concerning the dedication of that to God; concerning the special duty of the priest to be a witness that the *living sacrifice* is that which God seeks for, that it is this which interprets the mystery of death, that it is this which purifies, that it is this which unites. . . . Then he was taught to pour out his own life blood, and not only that of the beasts, before the altar; then he was taught that there must be a higher and nobler blood than that, poured out of the whole congregation and for the human race to purify it of its selfish corruptions, to unite it with God."

This is very clearly and beautifully put; but Mr. Maurice—while not offering this view as a novelty, for that would be its condemnation, with him—appears, from his Preface, to suppose this exposition of the idea of sacrifice to be much less familiar than it really is. Many of our readers, however, will not be able to remember the time when just this view precisely, in all its minutest details, was not known to them, heard from the pulpit by them, and accepted by the simple as well as the learned

among the "orthodox." It is not to be denied that half-views, and distorted views, have been taken by incompetent teachers; such as Charles Simeon and others in the Establishment, and numerous good but unthinking hardworkers for Christ, in the various sections of Dissent. But where is the theologian, or respectable popular writer on theological subjects—or where the Christian man, lettered or unlettered—who would deny Mr. Maurice's fundamental position:—that Sacrifice is grounded on the Will of God, and effects that Will; and is *not* offered in arrest of the Divine Will, or to effect a change therein?—We pass, however, to the next discourse, that we may exhibit the result of the investigations contained in this portion of the work, in the author's own words.

"The Scriptures of the Old Testament have led us, step by step, into a deeper apprehension of sacrifice. The humiliation of David, which showed him that he had nothing of his own to offer; that he must come empty-handed, broken-hearted, to receive of God that which He alone could give, a right and true spirit—this humiliation, while it seemed to undermine the legal doctrine of sacrifice, actually vindicated it, and placed it on its proper ground. The corrupt and heathenish notion of sacrifice, against which the law had been protesting, was uprooted by the principle to which David gave utterance in the fifty-first Psalm. Sacrifice was brought out in its fullest and most radical sense, as the giving up, not of something belonging to the man, but of the man himself. Till he made that oblation, he was in a wrong state. When it was made he was in a restored state—in the state in which God had intended him to be, a dependent creature, a trusting creature, capable of receiving his Maker's image."

To this issue no objection can be raised. Indeed, surveying in thought the whole of Mr. Maurice's historical evolution of the idea of Sacrifice, and his disclosure of its foundations in the will of God, we recall nothing heretical. It may be that he pushes his great truth too far, or does not pursue it far enough; and that he neglects some collateral truths, of no mean importance, in his zeal for that which he has; but deadly error, or even considerable perversion, on this subject, cannot be attributed to him. In "the jargon of the day," he may be fairly charged with too much *subjectivity*, too little *objectivity*, in the treatment of the facts he handles and the doctrine they enshrine; and may be said to have laid hold, as is his wont, on a characteristic—it may be the chief—and then to have ignored others of great relative importance. That he has not brought out the *whole* truth respecting the Old Testament sacrifices, as intimations of the future, as "shadows of good things to come," is the marked fault of the earlier part of the book.

We turn now to the Sacrifice of the New Testament; and in a sermon on the words "The Lamb verily fore-ordained before the foundation of the world," we have this pregnant passage.

"What would such words seem to denote, but that there was one whom the Father of all knew, and who, in the fullest and most intimate sense, knew Him, *before the earth was formed*? . . . St. John had said, *In Him was Life and the Life was the Light of Men*. It must then be all important that men should know Him, from whom their light comes, in whom their life dwells. But how could they know Him? How could they look into the Eternal secret? What apprehension could they have of that Life which He had with the Father, that life which does not belong to time and its accidents, that life which can only be spoken of as eternal? St. Peter assumes that we could know nothing of it, that all our guesses about it must be wild guesses, mere dreams derived from our own earthly associations and discoveries, if this life had not been manifested. But the veil, he says, has been withdrawn which hid His divine nature, His relation to the Eternal Father from us. And how has it been withdrawn? He has appeared in our world, in our nature; He has sacrificed Himself. In that sacrifice we see what He is—what He always has been. His acts here, plain and palpable, done among men, done for men, have shown forth that perfect filial obedience to the Creator of all things, that entire filial union with the Eternal Father, which is the ground of the universe and the ground of our humanity.—I think if we had no other words to guide us than those in the text, we should be forced to put this construction upon them. And then this *foreknowledge* of which it speaks, instead of being a provision that is contingent upon human events and human will—instead of being an anticipation, which every devout man shrinks from attributing to Him to whom all things are naked and open, to whom past, present, and future are one—becomes the communion of will and purpose in the persons of the Godhead, our belief in which saves us from the necessity and the horror of ascribing self-will to the Author of all; and enables us to see how perfectly a loving will can only be uttered and shown forth by one who enters into it, and yields himself to it.

"That this obedience should be the means of rectifying the disorders of the universe, of bringing back the state of things which self-will has broken and disturbed, of re-establishing the kingdom and righteousness of God, of renewing and subduing the hearts of human beings, this is what we should with wonder and trembling expect; this is what corresponds so blessedly, so perfectly, to the deepest prophecies in the spirit of mankind; this is the very Gospel which has brought light into the midst of our darkness, life into the midst of our death. But we must not change and invert God's order to make it square with our condition; if we do it will not meet the necessities of that condition. We must not start from the assumption of discord and derangement, however natural to creatures that are conscious of discord and derangement such a course may be; we must begin with harmony and peace, and so understand why they have been broken, how they have prevailed and shall prevail.

"It is for this reason, I conceive that the Apostles, when they dwell so continually upon the effects of the

Divine and human sacrifice in taking away sin and utterly removing the effects of it, yet lead us back to a ground of sacrifice in the Divine nature; in that submission of the Son to the Father, that perfect unity of Purpose, Will, Substance, between them, whence the obedience and fellowship of all unfallen beings, the obedience and fellowship of all restored beings, must be derived, and by which they are sustained. Believing such a mystery of a Will commanding and a Will obeying, and of a spirit uniting both, to lie beneath all the order of nature, all the actions of men; there comes forth from both the same testimony to the Creator and the Father."

Let the above passage be carefully read. It contains the author's principal theological positions—the circle of his theological thought. Is it a true and perfect circle?—"that is the question." We think not. Substantially agreeing with him in all he here puts forward, we do not find the subject exhausted, or our sense of its requirements satisfied. Although it is easy to see in the passage we have given, the author's view of the questions—how the sacrifice of Christ becomes a *Redemptive power*,—and how that power becomes *effectual* in redeeming us; it is precisely on these points that he will be considered, by those who have ever profoundly felt the difficulties with which he himself is honestly and earnestly grappling, to leave them still without full satisfaction, or even such measure of satisfaction as the case seems to admit of. And we think the connecting link here supplied, between the Great Sacrifice and man's consciousness of Redemption, is defective, and may perhaps fail the mind that trusts to it, simply because the significance of the Sacrifice itself is only partially expressed.

We wished to add an extract and a few remarks on the subject of *Propitiation*; on which, while quite failing to cover the whole ground, the author has said many deeply true and richly suggestive things. But we must forbear. We cannot, conscientiously, pass over without condemnation Mr. Maurice's repeated use of the term *regeneration* in a sense which, though it may suit well enough the Baptismal formularies of his own Church, seems to us thoroughly unscriptural,—contrary to the whole usage of the word in the history of doctrine from the earliest times,—and utterly destructive of precision of thought and a common understanding of words, in theological discussion. This use of the word may be exemplified in the following clause of a sentence—"that we are *all* raised to a new and regenerate condition in Christ." We know the defence, and the passages in defence, on which Mr. Maurice will rely: but we emphatically dissent still.

One word on the Dedication Letter, which presents this volume to the Young Men's Christian Association:—it replies, as almost everybody now knows, to Dr. Candlish's Strictures. Perhaps Mr. Maurice has expended more words on the matter than it needed,—and more intensity of feeling than was requisite on one of the most uncandid and uncourteous of controvertists. But we heartily admire the manliness and outspokenness of this Preface; and think the verdict should go for the defendant.

None of Mr. Maurice's works is completer or more elaborate than this, though it is thoroughly practical in its tendencies; and it is generally free from the vagueness charged on some of his other writings. We cannot regard it as a resting-place on the subject of Sacrifice; but there are no few inquiring minds which it may valuably assist to faith in the Propitiator.

Russian Life in the Interior, or, The Experiences of a Sportsman. By IVAN TOURGHENIEFF, of Moscow. Edited by JAMES D. MEIKLEJOHN. Edinburgh: A. and C. Black.

THIS work was published at Moscow, in 1852; and translations have already appeared in the French and German languages. It is from the French version that the present translation has been made. Although some of the peculiarities of the original may possibly have been lost, in this double process of rendering into foreign and little allied tongues—of which, however, we are in no position to judge—it yet retains a decidedly national character; and we are therefore led to conclude that the translators' work has, in each case, been really well done. At any rate, the book, as it is, is one which commends itself, and can scarcely fail of a cordial reception by the English public.

The "Experiences of a Sportsman" form but the thread of connexion between a series of graphic sketches of the people and life of the Russian interior, which themselves give the work its great interest and worth. Other writers have made us acquainted with the ports and great cities of Russia, and with the commercial classes residing in them. And De Cistine and others have introduced us to the Court and the higher circles of the Russian population. But this book carries us into the very heart of the society and life of the interior of the great empire; and presents to us vivid pictures of the homes, occupations, manners, and customs, of the great mass of the people. Perhaps very few have been able to realize so completely the scenes, people, and modes of life

in the Russian interior, as the readers of this volume will, while delighting themselves with its pages. The country serfs, the serfs in the towns, the bourgeoisie, the petty nobility, and especially the women of all classes, live and move before us in these sketches. Varieties of character, different grades of civilisation, and the wholly unlike scenes of the country town, the isolated village, the forest, and the steppe, present themselves in distinct and memorable pictures to the mind; and the knowledge of the reader is substantially increased, while his pleasure is ministered too abundantly. The author has great powers of description, a clear perception of the individualities of persons, and is vivacious and agreeable in dialogue. The thorough nationality of the book is its merit and its charm. Although we have no space to say more about it, we must not lay it aside without making a short extract.

A RUSSIAN COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

"Mardari Apollonovitch Stegounoff is a little old man, quite round, quite bald, double-chinned, with small flabby hands and a considerable paunch. He is a free liver and a merry fellow; he lives according to his fancy, and as people say, loves his ease; in summer, as well as in autumn, he may be always seen in a stupid dressing-gown, lined with wadding covered with silk. He is a bachelor. He possesses five hundred souls. Mardari Apollonovitch manages his property in a summary way. Ten years ago, for example, not to be behind the age, he purchased at Moscow a thrashing machine; he shut it up in a coach-house, and never thought of it again. At times, on a fine summer's day, he orders out his begowaturochka, and goes to look at his fields in anticipation of the coming harvest, and to gather bluebottles. Mardari Apollonovitch lives in the good old way, and the architecture of his house is of a similar character. In his anteroom one is at once overwhelmed by the odours of kraas, tallow-candles, and leather boots. One of the corners is ornamented with a pyramid of pipes, and other smoking luxuries. In the dining-room are the portraits of the family, flies, a huge geranium-pot, and a squeaking stiel. . . . in the drawing-room are three divans, three tables, two mirrors, and a clock with an old enamelled dial-plate and hands of carved bronze; the study contains a cabinet full of papers, a screen of a blue ground, adorned with prints cut out of books of the last century—two presses full of worm-eaten volumes, spiders, and thick layers of a blackish dust, and a well-stuffed arm chair; this room is lighted by a Venetian window, and by four panes of a door window, now closed up, which was originally intended to open upon the garden. In short, nothing is wanting. Mardari Apollonovitch keeps in his service a great number of people, all dressed in the old fashion, long blue coats with high collars, trousers of an undecided colour and barely descending to the ankle, yellow waistcoats, and finally, cravats of a white corded material. These fine fellows say 'father,' instead of 'sir,' to visitors. M. Stegounoff has a boursmisher or bailiff, chosen from among his peasants, to look after the management of his estate—a man whose beard terminates where his toulup does, at his knees. His domestic economy is intrusted to an old woman, who wears, instead of a cap, a silk handkerchief firmly tied over her head in a theatrical fashion; nothing wrinkled and disagreeable could equal her. In the stables of Mardari Apollonovitch are kept thirty horses of various kinds. The master makes use of a calash hammered rudely up by his own joiners, and adorned by his own house painter, it certainly weighs a good many tons. M. Stegounoff receives his visitors with a loud welcome and warm salutation, and regales them very cordially—too cordially, thanks to the amazing qualities of Russian cookery, he at once deprives his guests of all power of doing anything else for the whole evening but play at preference. He never occupies himself with anything morning or evening, and has even given up the custom of reading his *soninki*. We can still count in our dear Russia a great number of lords of the soil cut after this fashion. . . . I paid him a visit one evening. . . . The wind had quite fallen. From time to time there passed a gentle breeze; one of those feeble currents, as it breathed its last against the house-wall, bore to our ears the sound of measured strokes, proceeding from the stables or coach-house on our right. Mardari Apollonovitch carried his full cup to his lips, and had already enlarged his nostrils (an operation without which no true and genuine Russian can enjoy his tea), when he suddenly stopt, listened, shook his head, sipped about a teaspoonful, and replacing the cup upon the table, uttered, with a smile of great good nature, and as if involuntarily accompanying with his voice the sounds which reached us—"Teheouki! teheouki! teheouki! teheouki! teheouki!"

"What is that?" I asked with surprise.
"Nothing—only a fellow whom I ordered to be whipt; Vacia, my butler, you know him?"

"Vacia, did you say?"

"Yes, Vacia, the servant who at a dinner the day before yesterday, served us with wine. That large fellow, you recollect, with enormous whiskers, veritable brushes. Ah! you know him now?"

The soft, sweet, and natural expression of Apollonovitch would have been proof against the profoundest indignation. I abstained from showing my feelings either by gesture or speech; but the expression of my eye as I turned it on his self-complacent face, had evidently made him think that his act was not approved of, for he added almost immediately—

"What of that, young man? What of it?" he said, jocularly shaking his head. "I am a great villain—oh yes! just to see the look you gave me! Don't you know the saying, 'He who loves well, chastises well?' That principle is not of yesterday."

Quarter of an hour after this conversation, I took leave of Mardari Apollonovitch. In passing through the village, I met Vacia, the butler, the man with the great whiskers. He was lounging along the path, and cracking nuts as he went. I stopped my calash, and addressed him. "How comes this, friend? You have been whipt to-day?"

"How do you know that?"

"Your master told me."

"My master himself."

"Yes—why did he order you to be punished?"

"There was a reason, sir, certainly. With us, one is never beaten without cause—no, no, no; with us, nothing of the sort; no, no; with us, he is a bärin, ho! ho! such

a bärin;—no, no; he has not his equal in the whole province—come."

"Drive on!" said I to my coachman—this is indeed "old Russia," I thought, as I entered my house."

The tone of this volume, as will be supposed from the extract we have given, is not very favourable to "things as they are" in Russia. We should not wonder if the author has paid the penalty of writing and publishing, and in Moscow too, a book so derogatory to the Russian dignity, so dangerous to the Russian serf, so revolutionary towards Russian authority, as this would in all probability be considered to be, by the emissaries of the benevolent "paternal despotism" there all-prevailing.

A Geographical Dictionary of Holy Scripture. Including also Notices of the Chief Places and People mentioned in the Apocrypha. By Rev. A. ARNOLD-SMITH, M.A. London: Longman and Co.

THE plan of this volume is, to give a Scriptural account of every place and people mentioned in Holy Writ; coupled with short notices from other sources, and with direct references to every passage in which they are mentioned; thus verifying the accounts themselves, and assisting a consultation of the inspired authorities. The author makes no claim to originality or unusual learning; but has chiefly kept accuracy and usefulness in view. The work is very satisfactorily executed; and gives a full and comprehensive view of strictly Scriptural geography. Its defect is in its plan,—which should certainly have comprised fuller particulars of the past and present condition of places and peoples, from independent sources. What is done is well done; but something more is necessary to a thoroughly good work of the kind. Even the verification of sites, and the particular details of topography, will be found to be imperfectly attended to by the author. Where he has used the researches of travellers and critics, he has omitted to give his authorities,—a mistake which lessens the value of the work.

Inspired Songs: being a Selection of Psalms, &c., Syllabically arranged for Chanting. By SAMUEL MARSH. 4th Thousand. London: J. A. Novello; and Jno. Snow.

AMONG the attempts made to facilitate and direct the introduction into general public worship of the practice of Chanting, this little work is deserving of special mention and cordial praise. It contains the music of twenty excellent chants—one of which is original, the rest popular favourites; and adds to these Dr. Camidge's *Sanctus*, Cecil's Anthem, "I will arise," &c., and Weldon's "O praise the Lord." The psalms and passages of Scripture are pointed on a new principle, intended to assist "simultaneous distinctness" in chanting, and to secure the emphatic delivery of the expressive words. We do not always like the distribution and accentuation of the words, but there is no very glaring defect. On the other hand there are many merits, which, taken in connexion with the cheapness of the work (*sixpence* complete), will give it popularity and extensive use. The music of the chants (we may add) is printed separately, for use on every page.

Sunday Afternoon; or Questions, Pictures, and Poems upon the Old Testament Scriptures. For the Use of Parents and Teachers. By E. B. London: Bagster and Sons.

THIS volume is a second edition, under a new title, of a book called "Scripture Truths in Verse." That work extended only to the Judges of Israel; in the present volume, the Old Testament history is completed. It presents "a series of instructive lessons, embracing the leading events of the history, their typical import, and a sketch of each prophetic book in chronological order." We can easily fancy that children may be more amused, and their attention more readily fixed, by a *verse* book on the Old Testament, than by a prose didactic work: but we cannot call the contents of these pages *poems*; for they only seldom are more than prose measured into lengths by rhymes, and sometimes are liable to the charge of being doggerel. We think children should have *good* verse, when they have any given them at all. It is possible to have real poetry, and yet quite simple enough in thought, metaphor, and language, for the sympathies and understandings of children. There is a very good and extensive series of *Scripture Questions* affixed to the volume,—which may also be had separately. And there is a set of seventy-two original drawings in outline, illustrative of the subjects of the lessons; some of which are capital,—and most of them well-conceived and well-drawn. The idea of the book is decidedly excellent.

The Morning Land. A Family and Jewish History. By the Author of "Leila Ada," &c. London: Wertheim and Macintosh.

THE popularity of "Leila Ada" has induced the publication of this volume, containing the biography of her father, with notices of other members of the

family. The subject has been almost overdone by the author; who had better, both for Leila's and his own sake, have contented himself with the charming first work published by him; with additions, in later editions, from the Diary and Letters which were made to furnish out a second volume. As to the particular combinations of persons and incidents in this "Morning Land," we suppose they are fictitious; but they may embody facts, and be in substance true, nevertheless. The foreign scenes and experiences give variety and attractiveness to the story. "The Levantine Jews" and "Incidents at Presburg" especially, have more than the interest that is to be looked for in isolated chapters of such a work. Its Jewish interest—even more than that which is personal to the sweet Leila Ada, now so widely known to young Christian readers—will be the charm of the book to no inconsiderable number of readers.

Nordufari; or, Rambles in Iceland. By PLINY MILES. (Travellers' Library, Nos. 68, 69.) London: Longman and Co.

Voyages and Discoveries in the Arctic Regions. By F. MAYNE. (Travellers' Library, No. 73.) London: Longman and Co.

"NORDUFARI" is both pleasant and instructive reading;—full of facts, good descriptions, amusing incidents, and shrewd remarks. No book on Iceland brings together more information—or more readably. Yet, one has to exercise patience and gentleness with the author; who is much too sharp, and too disposed to attempt the humorous. He is an American; and sometimes very American. But if a reader begins the work with such a warning as this, he will be prepared to restrain the irritability and annoyance the author may sometimes occasion him; and will then be well repaid for giving a full perusal to the book.—The *Arctic Regions* has been published already in a periodical. It deserved reproduction. There is no better condensed account of Arctic voyages and discoveries, from first to last, than this little book contains. It is brief but comprehensive; and written remarkably well.

The Lands of the Messiah, Mahomet, and the Pope; as visited in 1851. By JOHN AITON, D.D. Third Edition. London: A. Fullarton and Co.

We presume that Dr. Aiton's work is known to most of our readers, as one of the most original and delightful English books on the East, published of late years. It is already in a third edition; and we are glad to see it now brought within the reach of all classes. At this date it will be sufficient to say, that Dr. Aiton's unites shrewd observation, good sense, and unaffected piety, with a genial humour and a good deal of pleasing naïveté, that he has succeeded to perfection in interesting his readers in himself personally, and in giving them the liveliest impressions of the scenes and incidents of his journeyings. Many of his descriptions are uncommonly vivid,—full and yet minute; and the story of personal adventure is told with a simple straightforwardness and ease which is very charming. We don't always assent to Dr. Aiton's opinions on matters of historical and antiquarian importance;—as, for instance, the view he takes of the disputes about "the Holy Places." But when he seeks to convey to us his own sensations, or records his own thoughts, during travel in the varied "lands of the Messiah, Mahomet, and the Pope," he is always worth hearing and generally both gratifies and instructs us.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Every Man his own Printer. Waterlow and Sons.
Dryden's Poetical Works. Vol. I. J. Nichol, Edinburgh.
Refutation of Spinoza. Constable and Co., Edinburgh.
Sermons by Dr. Chalmers. Vol. I. Ibid.
Wanderings in Corsica. 2 Vols. Ibid.
Zenon, the Roman Martyr. Clarke and Beeton.
Julamerck, a Tale of the Nestorians. Ibid.
God and His Works. Partridge and Oakley.
The Conflict and the Triumph. Ibid.
The Church and the Church Diet. Ibid.
Hellas, &c. Parker and Son.
English, Past and Present. Ibid.
Oxford Essays for 1855. Ibid.
Lord's Modern History. Simpkin and Co.
Manual of Political Science. Longman and Co.
A Sermon on Peace. Ibid.
Buds of Hope. J. Nisbet and Co.
Bibliotheca Sacra, January. Trubner and Co.
Bengal as a Field of Missions. W. H. Dalton.
The War: a Poem. W. F. and G. Cash.
The Age: a Poem. Binns and Goodwin.
The Burning and the Shining Light. J. Snow.
Life according to the Pattern in the Heavens. R. Theobald.
Is Man Responsible for his belief. R. Stark, Glasgow.

Gleanings.

The *Moniteur* is publishing a translation of Dickens' "Martin Chuzzlewit" in its feuilleton.

A proposition to introduce a number of nightingales into the Crystal Palace is stated to have been made! There is no end to the vagaries of fashion. It is now said that the next style will be to wear bonnets on the head.

Dr. Merle d'Aubigne, the historian of the Reforma-

tion, is writing a life of Luther to illustrate a series of drawings by M. Labouche.

The Glasgow Young Men's Christian Association, during the past season, numbered 2,300 members, and is in a most flourishing condition.

The author of the "Plurality of Worlds," is not Dr. Whewell, to whom the work was generally ascribed, but Mr. J. S. Smith, of Balliol College, Oxford.

Many people drop a tear at the sight of distress who would do better to drop a sixpence.

The Denison who scorns his church at home, Had best become a denizen of Rome.—*Diogenes.*

"Father," said a juvenile to his paternal guardian, who had the bad habit of alternating from piety to profanity, "I do think you ought to stop praying or swearing—I don't care which."

The *Ericsson* has had the caloric engines taken out of her, and she is at New York taking in engines of the present construction. The caloric principle may, therefore, be said to have failed for the present.

Mr. Punch, after several condemnations from the Prussian courts of law, has been prohibited throughout the whole kingdom of Prussia, by an order from the Minister of the Interior, Count Westphalen.

Mrs. Gaskell's story, "North and South," originally produced in *Household Words*, will shortly be published by Messrs. Chapman and Hall; and a new novel, "Grace Lee," by Miss Kavanagh, is announced by Messrs. Smith and Elder.

In the last war between the United States and Mexico, rings were found upon dead officers belonging to the latter country, which contained small receptacles holding a poisonous fluid. It was said that the wearers intended to take poison rather than be taken prisoners!

A fine swan was found the other day in the plain of St. Denis, alive, but much exhausted. It had round its neck a silver collar, with an inscription engraved on it, stating that the bird belonged to the domain of a Prince Hohenlohe in Germany.

An attempt is being made by the workmen engaged at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, to establish, for their own use, a free library. Lord Carlisle has sent the projectors £5; and a reprint house has offered its books to the workmen at the trade price—that is, at a discount of 30 per cent.

M. Lecomte's story concerning Middle Rachel's American engagement has been denounced as a fabrication by M. Raphael Felix, brother to the lady, and manager of her tours. M. Raphael Felix has addressed to the journals a letter declaring that the contract, the embalmment, and all the other incidents of "the wondrous tale, are only so many falsehoods."

The *New Hampshire Patriot*, the leading Democratic paper at Concord, says the printing office of that paper, has been the graduating school of a governor, a senator in Congress, several representatives in Congress, many editors, some ministers, and many other young men who have filled at times numerous responsible stations in the community.

The following anecdote was recently told of M. and Mme. de Girardin:—"During the worst days of 1848, Mme. de Girardin said to several people who were visiting her, 'Everything goes worse and worse. There is only one above who can save us.' The visitors bowed, thinking she spoke of Providence. But she was alluding to her husband, who was at work in a room overhead."

The following appeared as an advertisement, in Thursday's *Morning Post*:—"MATRIMONY.—A Gentleman, of good family, assured of the hollowness of fashionable life called good society, where friendship is only known by name, seeks it in a widow or maiden lady, of position, possessing pleasing manners, fond of home society, and if desirable, a country life. Truthful confidence may be reposed.—Address, 'Beta,' Shephard's Post-office, Hampstead-road, Middlesex."

The example of our ladies at home has borne fruit in the harems of Pera and Stamboul. The prisoned hours of these sacred recesses are plying every nerve and needle in making up *khirkas* (war-jackets) for the Turkish troops in the Crimea. Philanthropy has all at once become fashionable, and rosewater divinities, who never before knew severer toil than the thrumming of a guitar or the patting of a pasha's cheek, are now working "over-time" at all the drudgeries of slop-work.

A member of the American bar states that, some time ago, a rough customer came into his office, and began to state his case in rather an abrupt manner. "Sir, I have come to you for advice: I'm a husband-in-law!" "A what?" spoke out the learned counsel. "Husband-in-law, sir!" "I have never seen that defined in domestic relations." "Don't you know what a husband-in-law is? Sir, you're no lawyer: you're an ignoramus! I am a husband-in-law, but not in fact, sir: my wife's run off."

Some time ago, when the legislature of one of the middle States of America was framing a constitution, the discussion of its various provisions was warm and obstinate. Many days had been spent in fiery debate, and the vote at length about to be taken. Just at this moment, a country member, who had been absent for some days previously, entered and took his seat. Another member, who was in favour of the amended Constitution, went to him and endeavoured to make a convert of him. "You must vote for the Constitution by all means," said he. "I'll vote for it on one condition," said the country member. "What is that?" "Why, that they let it run by my farm."

A correspondent asks us if we think that any other religious journal than a *Church of England Quarterly Review* would write respecting Barnum's book:—"With regard to the Life of Barnum we consider it the most amusing book that has appeared since the personal sketches of Sir Jonah Barrington. Much may be learned from it concerning life in America; and it is to the credit of Mr. Barnum that he not only speaks respectfully at all times of religion, but, even in the midst of his somewhat wild life, to have been

always to a considerable extent under its influence. He will gain much in general estimation by his book, and all who read it will be well entertained!"

The stipend of a minister of the Scotch Church is often paid partly in grain, as witness the following colloquy related by Dr. Aiton:—"William, you must bring me better grain: I can't sell it, it is so bad."—"It's just what the land produces, sir, and I ha'e naething else to gi'e."—"But, then, you are a bad farmer, William: you must farm better."—"Tut, sir! tut, sir! that's no civil—I'll no tak' that off your han': I attend your kirk, an' you gi'e just what the land produces, an' I dinna fin' fault—I dinna tell you that you are a bad preacher, although you tell me I am a bad farmer; but if I was to step into the Burgher meeting-house, I might get baith bigger measure, and corn better lighted. If ye'll ca' the weak corn an' cauf out o' your sermons, I'll put my corn ance mair thro' the fanners."

A philanthropic gentleman, Mr. H. Lawson, of Bath, has invented and presented to the hospitals there and elsewhere, a very ingenious and useful iron framework, with lifting apparatus, and other conveniences, suitable to the easy attendance on patients with paralysis, or fractured limbs. Another of his inventions connected with this is a surgical "transferer," whereby the most severely wounded person, or other pained or endangered patient, can be transferred from one bed to another, or one place to another, with the least possible risk of injury or increase of pain. The girths are separately drawn through beneath the patient by hooking with a flat needle, and the whole are threaded on poles and fixed without moving the patient in the least, till he is actually laid, as it were, comfortably on the "transferer," which is removable from below in a similar way. Mr. Lawson is desirous of giving publicity to these inventions for the sake of suffering humanity alone, as he has presented them to the public, and supplied them to various hospitals.

A remarkable prediction of the recent six weeks' severe frost has been much noticed. It was originally published in No. 319 of the *Cottage Gardener* (a weekly threepenny periodical), on the 7th of November last. Mr. Beaton, an eminent gardener, in a letter to that journal, advising on the moving of evergreens and pendulous plants, thus prophesied from long observation of the signs of the seasons:—"We shall, very likely, have not much winter till after the middle of January, and then we may have six weeks of it as hard as we had in 1830; but, let us hope, not quite so much snow at the beginning of April as we had that season. Now, I challenge all the almanacks about my estimate of next winter; and, having been a private Murphy about the fine weather in October, I think I have some claim to urge on plantings of all kinds, and to have it all finished right off-hand before the 15th of January at the furthest; also, every open spot in the garden, field, and nursery, ought to be turned upside down, and ridged, and all the wheeling and carting be put off till this great frost comes—if it will really come, as I expect it will, and just about that time." The frost commenced on the 15th ult., and it terminated as predicted.

In the Court of Aldermen the other day, Alderman Farebrother narrated the following anecdote for the benefit of two wrathful members of the Court:—"In my early days I happened to be in company with a gentleman who, in the presence of several others, used very harsh and violent language towards me. Although I did not return the compliment—on the contrary, I spoke in soothing terms to him—I was astonished by the receipt of a letter from him at this moment strong in my recollection. It was—"My dear sir, I advise you to consult your friends on the propriety of making me a suitable apology for your unjustifiable conduct, before I direct a friend to call upon you. Yours truly."—(Laughter.) To that epistle I wrote the following answer:—"My dear sir—(great laughter)—I have received your letter, and being a dead shot, I shall require security for the expense of your funeral. Yours truly, Charles Farebrother."—(Laughter.) Now, I hope the misunderstanding which has taken place here will end as harmoniously as that which took place between my old friend and me; for he gave us all an excellent dinner, and I believe that he and I had just as much idea of fighting as my two very good friends entertain; and I think it very probable that they will imitate my eccentric antagonist in his hospitality."—(Laughter.)

BIRTHS.

February 18th, at West Lodge, Upper Avenue-road, the wife of FREDERICK GREEN, Esq., of a daughter.
February 19th, at Lower Clapton, Mrs. ROBERT CHARLES, jun., of a daughter.
February 20th, at the Grove, Hammersmith, Mrs. TROSBART, of a son.
February 26th, the wife of the Rev. T. HANDS, Salisbury, Wilts, of a son.
February 27th, at Springfield, West Bromwich, the wife of Mr. R. S. HUDSON, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

February 20th, at Princess-street Chapel, Devonport, by the Rev. Aspinall Hampton, Mr. W. B. DORHAN to Miss ELLEN M. HARRIS, both of Devonport.
February 21st, at Kirkgate Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. Rhodes, Mr. J. WELLS, of Manchester, to MARTHA, youngest daughter of J. RHODES, Esq., of Bradford.
February 22nd, at the Independent Chapel, Halesworth, by the Rev. D. T. CARUSON, Mr. W. WELLS, of Saxmundham, to MARIANNE, third daughter of the late Mr. GEORGE ELWORTHY, of the Clay Hill Farm, Kelsale, Suffolk.

DEATHS.

November 10th, 1854, at the Glen, Glen Omond, CHAMBERS JOHN, the ninth son of the Hon. Mr. Justice BOOTHE, in the 11th year of his age.
February 7th, at Nice, Piedmont, the Rev. J. B. B. CLARKE, rector of West Bagborough, Somerset, aged 55, youngest son of the late Dr. ADAM CLARKE.
February 15th, at New Radnor, South Wales, CHARLES COCK EYRE, Esq., surgeon, and Mayor of Radnor.
February 15th, at Maida-hill, JANE, the wife of MARTIN THOMAS HISCOX, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., and youngest daughter of the late Rev. RICHARD COCK, minister of St. John's Chapel, Bedford-row.
February 16th, at Hayling, Hants, in the 79th year of her age, MARGARET CATHERINE, widow of the late GEORGE BOOTH TYNDALE, Esq., whom she survived only three days.

February 17th, in Great Portland-street, Mrs. DARNFORD, in her 102nd year, retaining all her faculties to the last.

February 17th, Mr. SIMON HARRISON, aged 72, for thirty years deacon of the Independent Church, South Petherton, Somersetshire.

February 19th, at his residence, Castle-row, Hull, Mr. W. W. HYDE, aged 76, father-in-law of the Rev. J. W. RICHARDS, of Tottenham-court Chapel.

February 20th, at Ruxton, CHAMBERLAIN METCALFE, Esq., aged 68.

February 21st, at Brighton, aged 84, the Viscount PONSOMBY, G.C.B.

February 22nd, at Bradford, Wilts, at an advanced age, ANN, relict of the late Mr. JAMES BROWN, universally beloved and respected; a consistent and devoted Christian.

February 23rd, at his residence, Roxburgh Cottage, Amersham-road, New Cross, Mr. ALEXANDER SCOTT YOUNG, late of Jamaica-row, Bermondsey, aged 36.

February 23rd, aged 66, Mr. GEORGE CLARK, of Binsbury-place.

February 24th, from concussion of the brain, caused by a fall on the ice, JOSEPH, youngest son of JOHN LIDGATE, Esq., of 9, Hillier-street, and Morden-hill, Blackheath, in the 9th year of his age.

February 25th, at Gredington, GEORGE, LORD KENTON, aged 79.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]—The full value of an admirable remedy—Cod Liver Oil—has only in Consumption, but in many other painful disorders, has hitherto not been so justly appreciated in England, as by our Continental neighbours,—practical experience having taught them its extraordinary efficacy in cases of Rheumatism, Gout, Bronchitis, Asthma, Rickets, Scrofula, and Cutaneous Diseases, and its superiority over every other medicine for the removal of General Debility in children and adults, and for the restoration of strength to the convalescent. Probably this error has arisen from the difficulty of obtaining Cod Liver Oil in a pure and genuine state—few articles being more ingeniously and extensively adulterated or tampered with. This obstacle is now fortunately removed by the introduction into this country of the celebrated Light Brown Cod Liver Oil of Dr. de Jongh, whose indefatigable researches, during a period of fifteen years, have enabled him to detect the causes of the too frequent failures of this remedy, to discover its essential properties, and to supply an article ensuring the confidence of medical practitioners and their suffering patients. Sold in Imperial Half Pint, Pint, and Quart Bottles with full directions for use, by Messrs. Harford and Co., 77, Strand, London. Dr. de Jongh's accredited Agents and Consignees, and may be obtained from all respectable Chemists and Druggists in the Kingdom.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Tuesday Evening.

The stock market has been very quiet during the past week for the most part, being but little affected by the Ministerial change. To-day prices have been flat and are now $\frac{1}{2}$ lower, Consols having receded to 90 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 91 for money, and 91 to 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ for the 8th of March. Reduced Three per Cents. are now at 91 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the New 3 per Cents. 91 $\frac{1}{2}$. Bank Stock, 213 $\frac{1}{2}$. India Bonds, 11s. to 12s. Exchequer Bills remain at 6s. to 9s. prem.; ditto Bonds, 99 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 99 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Money Market becomes rather tighter as the 4th of the month approaches. The amount of Bills falling due on Saturday next (the 4th being Sunday) is very large, but accommodation appears to be given with increased freedom.

Prices of Foreign Securities are quoted rather flat. Mexicans have fallen back to 20 $\frac{1}{2}$. Peruvian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents. have been done at 72 $\frac{1}{2}$. Portuguese 4 per Cents., 41 $\frac{1}{2}$. Sardinian 5 per Cents., 164. Turkish Bonds, 76 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 76. Belgian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents., 92 $\frac{1}{2}$. Dutch 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents., 61 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The Share Market has been flat, with rather lower prices. The preparation for the settlement has been quiet.

Banks continue steady. English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered are $\frac{1}{2}$ firmer. London Chartered of Australia, 204. New South Wales, 10s. higher for Account. Union of Australia has improved 10s. Canada shares have been done at 119 $\frac{1}{2}$ for Account. Canada Government Bonds $\frac{1}{2}$ firmer. Crystal Palace 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. General Screw Steam 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ for time.

The specie arrivals of last week were about £250,000. The exports were insignificant.

The Manchester letters state the suspension of Messrs. Gibson, Ord, and Co., a very old commission firm, with liabilities for £30,000. There have also been reports in the city of various failures, but no authentic intelligence has been published.

The Board of Trade Returns for the month and twelve months ending 5th of January last have been issued. The exports for the month ending January 5th, show a decrease of £144,000 against the same time last year. The exports for the year show a decrease of £1,841,000. The enumerated articles of British produce exported during the month ending the 5th January, amounted in value to £6,428,000. The amount for the corresponding month of 1854 was £6,572,000, and for that of 1853 to £6,419,414. The unenumerated articles are set down as £915,000, which swells the amount for the month of 1855 to £7,343,473. Shipping returns show a falling off of 47,000 tons outwards, and 454 tons inwards. There is also a falling off in the coasting trade.

The accounts of the state of trade in the manufacturing towns for the past week show general depression from the severity of the weather, combined with political uncertainties. At Manchester short time is being adopted, but has not yet been carried to an extent to exercise any influence on the market. The Birmingham report describes business as almost totally suspended, from the frost having interrupted the supply of materials. Orders also are diminishing, and the general feeling is one of heaviness. The Copper trade, however, remains firm. At Nottingham there has been a slight improvement in the demand for lace, but no material revival. In the woollen districts there has been less confidence than for a long time past; and the Irish linen-markets, notwithstanding the lessened production, are wholly without recovery.

So great has been the interruption to the business of the port of London through the frost during the past

week that only one vessel cleared out for Australia. In this case the destination was Port Phillip, and the measurement 598 tons. The rates of freight continue to exhibit much depression.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

| | Wed. | Thurs. | Friday. | Saturday. | Monday. | Tuesday. |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 3 per Cent. Consols | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Consols for Account | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 3 per Cent. Red. | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| New 3 per Cent. | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| India Stock | — | 215 | 215 | 215 | 215 | 215 |
| Bank Stock | — | 215 | 215 | 215 | 215 | 215 |
| Exchequer Bills | 8 pm | 6 pm | 9 pm | 6 pm | 6 pm | 6 pm |
| India Bonds | 12 pm | 12 pm | 12 pm | 15 pm | 15 pm | 15 pm |
| Long Annuities | — | 4-16 | 4-16 | — | 4-16 | 4-16 |

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 23, for the week ending on Saturday, the 17th day of February, 1855.

| ISSUE DEPARTMENT. | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Notes issued | 26,313,230 |
| Government Debt | 11,015,100 |
| Other Securities | 3,384,500 |
| Gold Coin & Bullion | 19,313,230 |
| Silver Bullion | — |

| BANKING DEPARTMENT. | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Proprietors' Capital | 14,533,000 |
| Reserve | 3,335,000 |
| Public Deposits | 4,826,000 |
| Other Deposits | 10,174,571 |
| Seven Day and other Bills | 894,585 |
| Government Securities | — |
| Dead Weight Annuity | 11,530,237 |
| Other Securities | 14,384,500 |
| Notes | 7,067,075 |
| Gold and Silver Coin | 667,885 |

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated the 22nd day of February, 1855.

The preceding accounts, compared with those of the week ending February 10th, exhibit

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| An increase of bullion of | £293,026 |
| An increase of public deposits of | 434,733 |
| An increase of other deposits of | 127,355 |
| A decrease of securities of | 3,074 |

Friday, February 23rd, 1855.

Speller, J., Wapping High-street, sail maker, March 13, April 4; solicitor, Mr. Atkinson, Abchurch-lane, City.

Stewart, G. C., Hackney-road, draper, March 3, April 3; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers, City.

Salmon, T., Kettering, Northamptonshire, ironmonger, March 7, April 4; solicitors, Messrs. Sole and Co., Aldermanbury; Mr. Hodgson, Birmingham.

Howell, J., Judd-street, Brunswick-square, builder, March 6, April 22; solicitors, Messrs. Watson and Son, Souverie-street, Fleet-street.

Bowler, W., Old Jamaica-wharf, Lambeth, timber merchant, March 3, April 4; solicitors, Messrs. Stiles and Sons, King William-street, City.

House, G. C., Dovercourt, Essex, grocer, April 4; solicitors, Messrs. Grev and Son, Warwick-buildings, Gray's-inn; Mr. Lawrence, Ipswich.

Oakes, S., Cambridge, builder, March 3, April 13; solicitor, Mr. Paxon, New Bowtell-court, Lincoln's-inn.

Twiss, J., Hedge-row, Islington, High-street, draper, March 5 and 20; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers, City.

Bentley, J. M., Dudley, Worcestershire, grocer, March 12 and 28; solicitor, Mr. Riddington, Dudley.

King, J., Birmingham, licensed victualler, March 9 and 31; solicitors, Messrs. P. and H. and Hawkes, Birmingham.

Sounds, H., Bourne, Lincolnshire, coach builder, March 5 and April 3; solicitors, Mr. Brown, Market Deeping, and Mr. James, Birmingham.

Cheatham, J. H., Nottingham, lace manufacturer, March 5 and April 3; solicitor, Mr. Cooper, Nottingham.

Cause, L., Cardiff, Glamorganshire, beer house keeper, March 6 and April 3; solicitors, Messrs. Bevan and Gilling, Bristol.

Hearn, D., Cheltenham, linen draper, March 8 and April 3; solicitors, Mr. P. and H. and Messrs. Abbot and Lucas, Bristol.

Blackwell, G. R., Cheltenham, marble mason, March 8 and April 3; solicitors, Mr. P. and H. and Messrs. Abbot and Lucas, Bristol.

Randle, W., Cheltenham, miller, March 8, April 18; solicitors, Mr. P. and H. and Messrs. Abbot and Lucas, Bristol.

Clench, J., Exeter, and St. Thomas the Apostle, Devonshire, timber dealer, March 9 and 29; solicitor, Mr. Forde, Exeter.

Moore, J., Skircoat, Yorkshire, common brewer, March 9 and 20; solicitors, Messrs. Edwards, Halifax; Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds.

Kirkham, W. W. C., Manchester, money scrivener, March 5 and 27; solicitor, Mr. Boole, Manchester.

Pickstone, R., and Mayall, A., Hurst, Lancashire, cotton spinners, March 6, April 3; solicitors, Messrs. Rowley and Son, Manchester.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Campbell, J., and Campbell, R., Bowfield, Renfrewshire, bleachers, March 3.

Campbell, J., Glasgow, tailor, March 1.

Cross, H., Glasgow, merchant, March 8.

DIVIDENDS.

Shaples, E., jun., Soham, Cambridgeshire, miller, first div. of 2s. 4d., any Monday, at Mr. Cannan's, Aldermanbury.—Bernasconi, B., Red Lion-street, Clerkenwell, looking glass frame manufacturer, first div. of 2s. 10d., any Monday, at Mr. Cannan's, Aldermanbury.—Webb, J., Rayleigh, Essex, grocer, first div. of 3d., any Monday, at Mr. Cannan's, Aldermanbury.—Sykes, T., Bath Easton, Somersetshire, clothier, second and final div. of 11-16d., March 7, and two subsequent Wednesdays, at Mr. Leach, Aldermanbury.—Pound, G., Daleton, licensed victualler, first div. 8d., March 1, and two subsequent Thursdays, at Mr. Stansfield's, Basinghall-street.—Goble, J., Old Shoreham, Sussex, miller, final div. of 1d., March 1, and two subsequent Thursdays, at Mr. Stansfield's, Basinghall-street.

Tuesday, February 27th, 1855.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

Bradbury, J., Moseley-road, Worcestershire, dealer in copper ore.

BANKRUPTS.

Byas, H., Brighton, Sussex, builder, March 13, April 17; solicitors, Messrs. Freeman and Bothamley, Coleman street, City.

Speller, J., Wapping High-street, sailmaker, March 13, April 4; solicitor, Mr. Appleton, Abchurch-lane, City.

Stewart, G. C., Hackney-road, draper, March 2, April 3; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers, City.

Rees, T. H., Aldine-chambers, Paternoster-row, printer, March 16, April 17; solicitor, Mr. Upward, Cophall-court, City.

Turner, J., Hedge-row, Islington High-street, draper, March 5 and 20; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers, City.

Sykes, J., Little Tower-hill, clothier, March 9, April 17; solicitors, Messrs. Aldridge and Bromley, South-square, Gray's-inn; Mr. Notcutt, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Lawford, T. B., and Maitland, E., George-yard, Lombard-street, wine merchants, March 9, April 17; solicitors, Messrs. Wright and Bonner, London-street, Fenchurch-street.

Barnet, S., Wallington-road, Liverpool-road, builder, March 10, April 18; solicitor, Mr. Theobald, Furnival's-lane, Holborn.

King, S., Northampton, boot and shoe maker, March 10, April 18; solicitor, Mr. Mocheless, Lincoln's-inn-buildings; Messrs. Duggan and Mocheless, Walsall, Staffordshire.

Bottemann, H. J., New Oxford-street, chair manufacturer, March 9 and April 18; solicitor, Mr. De Jersey, St. James's-lane, City.

Stcher, W. J., Betch-lane, Spitalfields, ironmonger, March 9 and April 18; solicitors, Messrs. Bristow and Tait, Bond-court, Walbrook.

Selby, G., Ironmonger-lane, City, and Birmingham, iron ensembler, March 9 and April 18; solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry-chambers, City.

Palmer, W., Aldgate, City, cooper, March 7 and April 21; solicitors, Messrs. Sole and Co., Aldermanbury.

Keeble, W., Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, ironmonger, March 13 and April 9; solicitor, Mr. Jones, Birmingham.

Lounds, H., Bury, Lancashire, coach builder, March 6 and April 9; solicitors, Mr. Brown, Market Deeping, and Mr. James, Birmingham.

Freck, T., Nottingham, grocer, March 18 and April 3; solicitor, Mr. Cooper, Nottingham.

Stinson, G., Church Fenton, Yorkshire, chisely merchant, March 20 and April 16; solicitors, Mr. Walker, York, and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds.

Whittaker, J., Oldham, Lancashire, publisher, March 26 and April 9; solicitor, Mr. Ascroft, Oldham.

Johnson, J., Macclesfield, Cheshire, off dyer, March 18 and April 4; solicitors, Mr. Wadsworth, Macclesfield, and Messrs. Higson and Robinson, Manchester.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Kelish, D., Glasgow, bookseller, March 9.

Finlay, J. W., Edinburgh, printer, March 8.

Bart, A., Chapel Road, Renfrewshire, eye wood manufacturer, March 8.

Symington, A., Carmichael, Lanarkshire, cattle dealer, March 8.

Tariff, A., Sharp, J. C., and Black, T., New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Paisley, and Glasgow, manufacturers in iron, March 8.

Lawson, J., and Lawson, J., jun., Paisley, cattle priors, March 8.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Cooper, I., Loddington, Northamptonshire, first div. of 1s. February 28, and three subsequent Wednesdays, at Mr. Edward's, Sandbrook-court—Bullock, W., Leicester, tailor, first div. of 2s., any Thursday, at Mr. Christie's, Birmingham—Barnes, W., Shoubridge, Worcestershire, builder, first div. of 1s. 4d., February 28, March 8, and two subsequent alternate Thursdays, at Mr. Atkinson's, Birmingham—Scriven, T., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, common brewer, third and final div. of 1d. (in addition to 1s. 4d. previously declared), March 8, and any subsequent Saturday, at Mr. Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—Pitts, J., and Pates, E., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, tea dealers, first div. on new proofs of 6d., March 8, and any subsequent Saturday, at Mr. Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Markets.

MARK LANE, LONDON, Monday, February 26, 1855.

On Saturday a thaw set in, which still continues; we therefore trust that business may soon resume its usual course. There was a moderate quantity of English Wheat offering this morning, and the greater part was taken by our millers without any change in prices; for foreign there was rather an improved demand, at full rates. Flour slow sale. Barley dull at previous quotations. Beans and Peas without alteration. The arrivals of Oats were very short, and the trade was firm, but we cannot quote any improvement in prices. In clovered little doing. Linseed and Cakes quite as dear.

| WHEAT. | | WHEAT— | |
|---|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| | Price. | | Price. |
| Essex and Kent, Red 56 to 72 | — | Danish | 80 |
| Ditto White | 72 40 | Konigsberg, Red | 73 84 |
| Lincoln, Norfolk, & York | — | Pomeranian, Red | 74 85 |
| Yorkshire Red | — | Rostock | 74 85 |
| Northumb. & Scotch 66 72 | — | Danish & Holstein | 72 76 |
| Rye | 45 48 | East Friesland | 68 76 |
| Barley malting (new) 30 35 | — | Petersburg | 64 72 |
| Distilling | — | Riga and Archangel | 58 60 |
| Malt (pale) | 62 70 | Polish Odessa | 66 76 |
| Beans, Maragan | 40 46 | Marianopol | 76 84 |
| Ticks | — | Taganrog | 60 62 |
| Harrow | — | Egyptian | 82 85 |
| Pigeon | — | American (U.S.) | 74 82 |
| Peas, White | 40 42 | Barley Pomeranian | 80 84 |
| Grey | 37 40 | Konigsberg | — |
| Maple | 37 40 | Danish | 81 84 |
| Boilers | 42 44 | East Friesland | 28 30 |
| Tares (English) | 50 52 | Egyptian | 24 26 |
| Foreign | 48 60 | Odessa | 24 26 |
| Oats (English feed) | 22 29 | Beans— | — |
| Flour, town made, per sack, of 280 lbs. | 50 70 | Horse | 38 40 |
| Linseed, English | 70 74 | Pigeon | 42 44 |
| Baltic | 60 62 | Egyptian | 38 40 |
| Black Sea | 64 68 | Peas, White | 40 44 |
| Hempseed | 40 44 | Oats— | — |
| Canaryseed | 48 56 | Dutch | 24 28 |
| Cloverseed per cwt. of 112 lbs. English | 50 60 | Jahde | 28 30 |
| German | 50 70 | Danish | 28 30 |
| French | 40 62 | Danish yellow feed | 26 30 |
| American | 42 46 | Swedish | 26 29 |
| Linseed Cake, £15 10 to £16 0 | — | Petersburg | 27 29 |
| Rape Cake £6 to £6 10 per ton | — | Flour, per bar, of 196 lbs. | — |
| Rapeseed £24 to £26 per last | — | New York | 37 43 |
| | | Spanish per sack | 62 65 |
| | | Caraway Seed | 32 34 |

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, February 26.

Scarcely any foreign stock was here to-day. The arrivals of Beasts from our own grazing districts fresh up this morning were very moderate as to number, and there was a slight falling off in their general quality compared with some previous weeks. Although the attendance of buyers was by no means numerous, the Beef trade was somewhat active, at an advance in the quotations obtained on Monday last of 2d. 6d. The figure was 4s. 10d. 6d. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received 2,300 Scots and shorthorns; from other parts of England, 800 of various breeds; and from Scotland, chiefly by railway, 230 horned and polled Scots. There was only a moderate supply of Beasts on sale, and we observed a marked decline in their weight and condition. On the whole, the Mutton trade was tolerably firm; but we have no change to notice in prices. Very few Calves were brought forward; yet the Veal trade was heavy, at barely last week's currency. Pigs—the supply of which was small—moved off slowly, on former terms.

| Per 8 lbs. to sink the offal. | | Per 8 lbs. to sink the offal. | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| | s. d. s. d. | | s. d. s. d. |
| Coarse and inferior | 3 4 3 6 | Prime coarse wool- | — |
| Beasts | — | led Sheep | 4 4 4 8 |
| Second quality do. | 3 4 4 2 | Prime South Down | — |
| Prime large Oxen | 4 4 4 6 | Sheep | 4 10 5 0 |
| Prime Scots, &c. | 4 4 4 10 | Large coarse Calves | 4 2 4 8 |
| Coarse and inferior | — | Prime small do. | 4 10 5 4 |
| Sheep | 3 4 3 8 | Large Hogs | 3 0 4 0 |
| Second quality do. | 3 10 4 2 | Next small Porks | 4 2 4 4 |
| Suckling Calves, 22s. to 28s.; and quarter-old store Pigs 20s. to 25s. each | — | | — |

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, February 26.

There has been a falling-off in the arrivals of country-killed meat since our last report; and the supply on offer to-day, slaughtered in the metropolis, was very moderate. The general demand, however, was in a sluggish state, as follows:—

| Per 8 lbs. by the carcass. | | Per 8 lbs. by the carcass. | |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| | s. d. s. d. | | s. d. s. d. |
| Inferior Beef | 3 0 3 2 | Small Pork | 3 10 4 4 |
| Middling do. | 3 4 3 6 | Inferior Mutton | 3 2 3 4 |
| Prime large do. | 3 8 3 10 | Middling do. | 3 6 3 8 |
| Do. small do. | 4 2 4 4 | Prime do. | 4 0 4 4 |
| Large Pork | 5 0 3 8 | Veal | 3 10 4 4 |

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday.—The weather last week continued with undiminished severity till Saturday, when a thaw commenced. Butter sold steadily, and nearly all the Irish landed was cleared out of first hands at 1s. to 2s. advance. The stock was reduced to a narrow compass, and the market closed with a firm and healthy appearance. Of foreign, owing to the interruption of the navigation, the supplies were not equal to the wants of the trade, and therefore prices advanced 2s. to 4s. per cwt. Bacon was in slow and limited request, and stationary in value. In Hams and Lard no change.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------------|----|----|
| Friesland per cwt. | 118 | 120 | Cheshire (new) per cwt. | 66 | 80 |
| Kiel | 108 | 116 | Cheddar | 68 | 80 |
| Dorset | 104 | 112 | Double Gloucester | 60 | 70 |
| Carlisle | 100 | 106 | Single do. | 56 | 66 |
| Waterford | 94 | 100 | York Hams (new) | 80 | 86 |
| Cork (new) | 92 | 100 | Westmoreland do. | 78 | 82 |
| Limerick | 84 | 94 | Irish do. | 68 | 78 |
| Siligo | 96 | 102 | Wiltshire Bacon (dried) .. | 66 | 68 |
| Fresh, per doz. 14s. 0d. 16s. 0d. | | | Do (green) .. | 59 | 61 |

BREAD.—The prices of Wheat, Bread in the Metropolis are from 10d. to 11d.; of Household, do., 8d. to 9d. per 4lbs. loaf.

POTATOES, BOSTON AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, February 26.—Our markets continue to be very moderately supplied with all kinds of potatoes. There is a slight improvement in the trade, as follows:—York Regents, 105s. to 120s.; Kent and Essex ditto, 100s. to 105s.; Scotch ditto, 95s. to 105s.; ditto reds, 80s. to 90s.; middlings, 65s. to 75s.; Blues, 75s. to 85s.; Lincolns, 95s. to 110s. per ton.

SEEDS, Monday.—The trade for Clover has been quiet during the past week, but the change in the weather on Saturday gave us a more active trade this morning, and prices of all red and white Clovers and Trefoils were fully maintained. There has been a moderate enquiry for Linseed and cakes, at full prices, otherwise the trade is nearly suspended.

HOPS, BOSTON, Monday, February 26.—In the absence of any active demand the market continues without any material alteration, and the business doing is limited to the immediate requirements of consumers, at about the currency of this day week.

COVENT GARDEN, Saturday, Feb. 24.—The severity of the weather causes Vegetables to be very scarce, and high prices to be realized. Good Peas are confined to No. 1 Plus Meuris, Beurre d'Espérance, and Easter Beurre. Hothouse Grapes are over for the present. Seville Oranges bring from 7s. to 12s. per hundred; common sorts from 3s. 6d. to 10s. per hundred. Chestnuts, from 10s. to 24s. per bushel; Spanish Nuts, 14s. to 20s. per bushel; Barcelona, from 15s. to 24s.; French Almonds, 24s. per bushel, 65s. per cwt.; and Brazil Nuts, 30s. per bushel. Cucumbers vary from 1s. to 2s. each. A small quantity of Cornish Broccoli has reached the market this week. Spanish Onions may be bought for 2s. per dozen. Carrots and Turnips are dear. Potatoes have slightly advanced in price. Lettuce realize 9d. to 1s. per score. Cut flowers consist of Passion-flowers, Bignonia venusta, Tulips, Heliotropes, Euphorbias, Poinsettias, Camellias, Chinese Primroses, Heaths, and Roses.

FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c.—There is less doing in Hemp, yet clean St. Petersburg is held at £47 to £49 per ton. Manila Hemp has been forced off at a decline of from £3 to £4 per ton. Jute and Coir goods have sold irregularly. The Flax market is very inactive, at late rates.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The public sales of wool have been going off readily this week, nearly every parcel offered finding buyers. Clothing Australian sorts have been about 1d. per lb. lower than at the last series, and Cape 1d. to 1d. cheaper, but the other sorts of colonial are nearly as high as at the last series. East India qualities are selling well. Low wools are in much request at Liverpool. The arrivals of wool in London, Liverpool, Hull, Bristol, and Leith, last month, were 7,470 bales. There were no imports into London last week, owing to the ice. For some use there is little or no inquiry for English wool; and, were it not for a moderate demand on continental account, prices would be considerably lower than at present. The supply on offer is large, with every prospect of a large addition to it.

| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Down legs | 1 | 0 | — | 1 |
| Half-bred Hogs | 1 | 0 | — | 1 |
| Ewes Clothing | 0 | 11 | — | 0 |
| Keut Fleeces | 1 | 0 | — | 1 |
| Combing Skins | 0 | 11 | — | 0 |
| Flannel Wool | 1 | 0 | — | 1 |
| Blanket Wool | 0 | 7 | — | 0 |
| Leicester Fleeces | 0 | 11 | — | 0 |

TALLOW, LONDON, Monday, February 26.—Our market is steady, and we have very little change to notice in prices. P.Y.C. on the spot, 55s. 3d. to 55s. 6d. per cwt. Town Tallow, 54s. 6d. net cash. Rough Fat, 3s. per 8lbs.

Particulars of Tallow.

| | 1851. | 1852. | 1853. | 1854. | 1855. |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Stock | 41,115 | 81,226 | 36,956 | 36,979 | 35,511 |
| Price of Y.C. | 37s. 9d. to 38s. 0d. | 36s. 0d. to 36s. 6d. | 44s. 3d. to 44s. 6d. | 43s. 0d. to 43s. 3d. | 55s. 3d. to 55s. 6d. |
| Delivery last week .. | 1,576 | 2,081 | 2,059 | 1,644 | 1,865 |
| Ditto from 1st June .. | 75,095 | 83,594 | 78,790 | 78,782 | 62,797 |
| Arrived last week .. | — | 1,126 | 680 | 1,671 | 216 |
| Ditto from 1st June .. | 91,692 | 100,286 | 75,127 | 92,446 | 62,308 |
| Price of Town | 39s. 6d. | 38s. 9d. | 45s. 9d. | 63s. 6d. | 56s. 6d. |

COALS, Monday.—The coals sold last week could not be worked, owing to the accumulation of ice in the river. Haswell, 25s.; Hutton's, 25s.; Stewart's, 25s.; Hartlepool, 24s.; Riddell's, 21s. 6d.; Hartley's, 19s. 6d.; Tanfield, 18s.; Wylam, 20s.; Gosforth, 22s.; Belmont, 22s.; Reeper Grange, 24s. Fresh arrivals, 29.

HIDE AND SKIN MARKETS, Saturday, February 17.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Market Hides, 56 to 64 lbs. | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Ditto 64 to 72 lbs. | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Ditto 72 to 80 lbs. | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Ditto 80 to 88 lbs. | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Ditto 88 to 96 lbs. | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Ditto 96 to 104 lbs. | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Horse Hides | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Calf Skins, light | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto full | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Foiled Sheep | 5 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kent and Half Breds | 5 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Downs | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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